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France warns of cooler ties if peace talks stop

ELDAD BECK
and news agencies
PARIS

FRANCE will lower the level of its relations with Israel if the Middle East peace process is stopped, French Defense Minister Charles Millon said yesterday.

Millon said he is postponing his official visit to Israel, scheduled for July 21, since this visit coincided with an unprogrammed visit by Foreign Minister Herve de Charette, who is to tour the region at the request of President Jacques Chirac for discussions on the state of the peace process.

His comments were the second sign this week of an apparent cooling in relations between France and Israel.

The French Foreign Ministry had said Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu was expected to visit Paris this month. But the Israeli Embassy said no such visit was planned for the moment.

Speaking to the France-Israel Chamber of Commerce, Millon said that de Charette will examine with the Israelis "the future of the peace process, and the relations between Israel and France in the framework of that process. It is unthinkable that the peace process be stopped, although a change in [negotiating] method or in the process is conceivable."

He said the continuation and expansion of defense cooperation between Israel and France will depend on the political situation in the Middle East.

Two years ago, France and Israel signed a cooperation agreement, providing for regular meetings and exchanges, thus putting an end to the military embargo imposed after the Six Day War.

"There was a difficult period in the relations between France and Israel, the period of the embargo. Today we're moving out of that period, but to be able to stabilize [defense] cooperation, there must be a stabilization of the political situation in the Middle East."

"I could well understand that for reasons of independence and strategic interests, the Israelis might not want to enter into partnership agreements that are liable to be suspended in the light of the political situation," he said.

Husseini: Netanyahu has declared war

BILL HUTMAN, JON IMMANUEL and DAVID RUDGE

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu made a "declaration of war" if he meant there would be no negotiations on Jerusalem's future when he said the city would remain exclusively under Israeli rule, Faisal Husseini, the senior PLO official in Jerusalem, said yesterday.

"Mr. Netanyahu can say what he wants to say. It is his business," Husseini said, in reference to Netanyahu's speech before Congress in Washington Wednesday. "I can't tell him what to think... But if what he is saying is that there will be no negotiations (on Jerusalem), we see this as a declaration of war," Husseini told *The Jerusalem Post*.

Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat returned from a visit to Morocco yesterday but avoided direct criticism of Netanyahu's speech before Congress.

"Peace is not only a Palestinian need, but also an Israeli need and an international need," he told reporters, and, after prompting, added that "Al-Quds Al-Sherif (Arab Jerusalem) is the capital of Palestine forever."

Husseini said the speech raised concern about Israel's commitment to keeping to the Oslo Accords and continuing final stage negotiations, which include the issue of Jerusalem. But he indicated final judgment would be withheld and the Palestinians would wait to see how the prime minister's statements on Jerusalem and other issues are translated into policy.

"Final stage negotiations must resume immediately," Husseini answered, when asked what the Palestinian Authority expected from the prime minister.

Husseini's remarks reflected the long-held view of the PA, when faced with statements by government leaders, including those of the previous government, declaring that Jerusalem will forever remain a united city under Israeli rule. PA leaders have characterized such statements as being made for

the consumption of the Israeli public. They have even seen the position that Jerusalem must remain unified as complying with their own position, which calls for east Jerusalem to be under Palestinian rule, but not physically divided from west Jerusalem.

Netanyahu, however, went a step further before Congress. He not only called for the city to remain unified but rejected any idea of "multiple sovereignty" in Jerusalem.

Asked about this, Husseini again reiterated the prime minister was "entitled to his opinion," as long as it did not mean that there would be no negotiations on Jerusalem, as called for in the Oslo Accords.

Meanwhile Arafat was greeted in Gaza by Palestinian newspaper headlines which focused on Netanyahu's statement on Jerusalem but also raised hopes that Netanyahu will meet with Arafat shortly.

Al Hayat al-Jadida, the newspaper closest to the Palestinian Authority, focused in its headline on Jerusalem. "The Congress claps as Netanyahu says 'We are not going to redive Jerusalem.'" *Al Ayyam*, another daily, headlined Foreign Minister David Levy's statement that he or Netanyahu might meet Arafat within two weeks.

However, Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani was quoted in *Al-Quds* with a sharper reaction. "It is a pity that Netanyahu is trying to gain the sympathy of Congress by lying," concerning Jerusalem, he said.

Palestinian Council member for Jerusalem Hanan Ashrawi said that the clapping over Netanyahu's Jerusalem remarks showed that "once again domestic concerns have superimposed themselves on international law," but she said she believed this would change after the US elections.

Prime Minister Abdul-Karim Kabariti of Jordan, the Arab country which appeared least worried



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu (right) laughs as Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole responds to a question during their meeting in New York City yesterday. (AP)

Dole says he'd get tough with Syria

DAVID MAKOVSKY
WASHINGTON

REPUBLICAN presidential challenger Robert Dole, sitting next to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in New York, told reporters that if elected, he would take a tougher line in dealing with Damascus than the Clinton administration has.

Dole's remarks came just as the US officially announced it did not see any likelihood for an early resumption of peace talks between Israel and Syria, but voiced hope the talks would only resume at "some point down the road."

"The Syrian question is very difficult," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said in Washington. "We hope that both Israel and Syria will remain open to negotiations, and will elect at some point down the road to proceed to negotiations. But I cannot predict for you when that will be."

Burns did call upon Israel to move quickly in dealing with the Palestinians. "There has to be a very quick and active engagement on the Israel-Palestinian issues. A

number of them need to be resolved. A number of commitments need to be met," he said.

Netanyahu, meanwhile, is planning to meet with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak next week in Cairo, an aide said. "The date is not final yet, but he wants to go after he comes back from the US," said Ofir Akounis, a spokesman for the Prime Minister's Office.

Akounis said Netanyahu hopes to visit Jordan after he visits Cairo. Jordanian Prime Minister Abdul-Karim Kabariti told a news conference in Amman yesterday that Netanyahu is expected for a visit next week, Reuter reported.

Mubarak softened his objection to a military agreement between Turkey and Israel after he met in Ankara with Turkish President Suleiman Demirel. "We understand now that the agreement is only educational and does not aim to form a military pact," Mubarak

said, according to Reuter. Just before their 40-minute meeting at a Manhattan hotel, Dole admitted that US-Israel relations were very good, but insisted they "would be stronger under a Dole administration, frankly, if it came to a missile defense, putting pressure on Syria, trying to isolate Iran."

While saying Israel "completely" supports Dole's legislative effort to move the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem,

Netanyahu noted that the bill was also supported by the Labor government. Labor's support for the bill was muted, so as not to embarrass the Clinton administration.

Dole said the embassy move "underscores the prime minister's view that there should be an undivided Jerusalem. I share that view."

Netanyahu declined to give his views on a potential Dole administration "in keeping a long-standing tradition of all Israeli prime ministers" of visiting opposition leaders while in the US, but not

(Continued on Page 2)

Porat's Hebron redeployment plan draws residents' fire

EVELYN GORDON

HEBRON would essentially become part of Area B, with security in Israel's hands but civilian governance the task of the Palestinian Authority, according to a draft redeployment plan prepared by MK Hanan Porat (National Religious Party).

The plan has raised the ire of Hebron's Jewish residents. Porat, who is considered part of his party's right wing, said he showed the plan to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu before he left for the US, and Netanyahu said the principles behind it seemed reasonable.

According to the plan, Israel would be responsible for security in all of Hebron. The IDF would

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Porat: Ne'eman for Temple Mount worship

JUSTICE Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman has expressed support for permitting Jewish worship at the Temple Mount, long forbidden for security reasons, and vowed that his ministry will provide the legal support for the move, according to MK Hanan Porat (National Religious Party).

Porat said that he met with Ne'eman recently on the issue and that he hoped to meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on his return from the US to expedite a change in the policy that has allowed only Moslem worship at the site since 1967.

"Ne'eman expressed his strong support for making the arrangements necessary to allow Jews to worship on the Temple Mount," Porat said.

But the Justice Ministry spokeswoman said she asked Ne'eman about a meeting with Porat, and he said that no such meet-

ing had taken place.

According to Porat, Ne'eman said he needed time at the ministry to deal with other pressing issues before officially addressing the matter of Jewish prayer on the Temple Mount. In principle, Ne'eman promised the ministry would back the move, Porat said.

"I tried to press him about a timetable, but he wouldn't make any promises about when things would happen," Porat said.

Porat added that he is organizing a meeting of various groups and people interested in pushing for allowing Jewish worship on the Temple Mount, and that there are plans for protests on Tisha Be'av, the anniversary of the Temple's destruction.

"There is no problem, from the point of view of Islam, with Israeli sovereignty over

the Temple Mount, according to Prof. Abdul Hadi Palazzi, head of the Islamic Institute in Rome.

The statement was made in a lecture Palazzi gave yesterday as part of an international law conference entitled "Jerusalem: City of Law and Justice."

According to the Justice Ministry, which organized the conference, Palazzi said that Islam recognizes the right of any man, regardless of his faith, to pray on the Temple Mount. He also said there is no justification in Islam for objecting to Jewish immigration to Israel.

"There is no barrier in Islam to Israeli and Jewish sovereignty on the Temple Mount," the ministry quoted him as saying. "We must remember that Jerusalem is holy to Judaism, just as it is to Islam."

Palazzi said most Moslem clerics in Italy agree with this position.

Jerusalem District Court Judge David Frankel yesterday said that preventing Jews from praying on the Temple Mount is a violation of civil rights and an infringement of the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom. He was speaking at an international seminar on Jewish Law in Jerusalem.

Jews wearing kippot are obliged to give their names to the Waqf guards or the police when entering the Temple Mount, Frankel said. This, he said, is a restriction of their freedom of movement.

He added that rulings by the High Court of Justice in recent years with regard to requests to hold Jewish prayers there had been based on the principle of maintaining public order.

PA security chief's aide reported arrested

JON IMMANUEL

A SENIOR aide to Gen. Nasser Yusef, Palestinian Authority director of public security, has been arrested for questioning by PA President Yasser Arafat's guards, security sources in the Palestinian Authority said yesterday. But Yusef's office denied it.

The arrest, according to the sources, was supposedly carried out in Yusef's office on Wednesday.

However, sources in Yusef's office denied that Maj. Farid Salih had been arrested. "We saw him today in the office and he left," said one.

Salih's home phone line was disconnected. Yusef has been overshadowed by other security officials in recent months, after playing a prominent role in the first year of Palestinian rule in Gaza. He developed close ties with many Israeli military men and declared



PA General Nasser Yusef.

his readiness to take tough action against Hamas, long before Arafat gave an order to get tough. Itim reported that Arafat may have arrested Yusef's aide because he suspects that Yusef has been speaking privately to Likud officials who would like to see him replace Arafat.

Foreign resident killed by SLA troops

DAVID RUDGE

SOUTH Lebanese Army troops yesterday shot and killed a foreign resident working in Lebanon when he approached an outpost in the eastern sector of the zone early in the morning.

Sources in the zone said the man, acting in a suspicious manner, reached the outskirts of the position and failed to heed warnings to halt.

The IDF Spokesman said the SLA soldiers thought it was part of an attack by gunmen on the position, following several firings at IDF and SLA posts in the same region in the past few days.

Searches of the area later revealed that the dead person was a foreign national, apparently from Somalia, who had been working in Arab Salim village, north of the zone.

It was not clear what prompted him to approach the ramparts of the position just before dawn. News agencies reporting from Lebanon originally quoted SLA sources as saying there had been an attack on the outpost and that the troops maiming it had killed a Hizbullah gunman.

Later in the day, Hizbullah did

in fact fire several RPGs at an SLA position in the eastern sector of the zone, without causing any injuries or damage. SLA gunners returned fire.

Meanwhile, Hizbullah leaders yesterday decried what they described as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's "war-like declarations" during his visit to the US.

Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah said the organization was determined to continue "the fight to liberate the land from occupation regardless of his [Netanyahu's] intentions to try and destroy us."

Deputy leader Sheikh Naim Kassem, in a separate statement, said: "If he [Netanyahu] thinks he can finish us, let him try on the battlefield." Hizbullah spiritual leader Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah also attacked the US for supporting Israel. "Whether [US President] Clinton approves of Netanyahu or not, US Middle East policy is a Jewish policy and therefore America is the number one enemy of Arabs and Islam," he was quoted as saying in the Lebanese press yesterday.

Lebanese journalist held here, suspected of aiding Hizbullah

DAVID RUDGE

A LEBANESE journalist has been remanded here on suspicion of aiding Hizbullah, it was revealed in Acre Magistrate's Court yesterday, when the publication ban on the case was lifted.

Ali Dia, 40, who works for the Agence France Presse (AFP) agency, was remanded for another 10 days yesterday.

Dia, who also works for "Future" television owned by Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri as well as the Beirut daily *Al-Safir*, was arrested in Marjayoun in the security zone a month ago.

He is suspected of belonging to a hostile organization and involvement in incidents in south Lebanon in which IDF and South Lebanese Army soldiers were killed.

Dia, whose family reportedly lives in El-Khiyam village in the security zone, has categorically denied the allegations. He said that as a journalist he had covered and filmed activities of IDF and SLA troops, but did not belong to any hostile organization.

According to reports from Lebanon at the time of Dia's arrest, he was responsible for filming the roadside bomb attack in Marjayoun at the end of June in which four IDF soldiers were killed. The film was screened on television stations in Lebanon and throughout the world, including Israel.

According to the reports, Dia was subsequently asked by SLA officers to report to their headquarters in Marjayoun, where he was arrested and taken to Israel for questioning.

Dia's arrest was roundly condemned by Lebanese government officials, with Foreign Minister Paris Bouze describing it as an "unjust and terrorist act" against a member of the press.

A toast to Bibi

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

HILLEL KUTTLER

SECRETARY of State Warren Christopher was playing hardball at the Israeli Embassy Wednesday night, and the subject was visiting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

It was not as dire as it sounds. In offering a toast to Netanyahu at a dinner for 125 invitees, Christopher projected himself as a master of ceremonies on the old television program "This is Your Life."

Netanyahu was not only deeply rooted in Israel but in the US, too, "more so than almost any foreign leader I know," Christopher said. First, Netanyahu graduated from the same suburban Philadelphia high school as baseball slugger and Hall of Famer Reggie Jackson. "So if you're wondering where he got that very strong stroke..." Christopher offered in jest.

Netanyahu also attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology at the same time as another "heavy hitter," current CIA director John Deutch, seated at Netanyahu's table, taught there.

The affirmative responses to the dinner invitations were so numerous, an attendee mentioned, that the popular retired head of the joint chiefs of staff, Gen. Colin

Powell, was relegated to the "B" table — that of ambassador Itamar Rabinovich.

The late dinner indeed brought out Washington's "movers and shakers," as Netanyahu called them: Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Defense Secretary William Perry, Powell's successor Gen. John Shalikashvili, seven Senators, two Congressmen, three ambassadors, the White House chief of staff and other top officials, a Supreme Court associate justice, the chairman of the Federal Reserve, the media elite and Jewish leaders.

Most had come with their spouses to eye the new premier in person and possibly get in a few words with him during cocktails.

Even for a visiting premier, the size of the gathering was more than double the regular dinners normally held at the ambassador's residence nearby.

Rabinovich offered a toast to the success of his new, if temporary, boss and to Sara Netanyahu. Netanyahu, he said, had left the building 12 years ago as the deputy chief of mission and was returning now as the head of government.

"Not bad," he said.

DOLE

(Continued from Page 1)

getting involved in domestic politics.

"This meeting is an expression of that common bond that transcends politics," Netanyahu said. Dole said the two did not talk politics, although "I was kidding the prime minister about looking up his pollster."

"We have a strong relationship," Dole said. "It will continue. It would certainly continue in a Dole administration."

Arriving with a roar of motorcycles, Netanyahu ducked into a side entrance of the hotel. A large tent, its flaps down, obscured him from the view of gawkers lining Fifth Avenue. Rifle-toting police officers stood along 81st Street.

Concrete barriers were set up outside the hotel's front entrance to keep traffic away. Dozens of FBI agents and New York City police also were on duty.

Netanyahu also met with officials from the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, before having a private dinner with wealthy American Jewish friends.

In a 20-minute luncheon speech at the board room of the New York Stock Exchange, he explained his plan to expand business opportunities in Israel. "I'd like you to come to Israel because you can make money in Israel," he told an audience that included some of the most powerful executives and corporate financiers in the US.

Among the guests were Stephen Hammerman, chairman of Merrill Lynch, real estate mogul Donald Trump, and Citibank vice chairman William Rhodes.

Marilyn Henry contributed to this report from New York

(Continued from Page 1)

by Netanyahu's election victory, said that Netanyahu "expressed a negative and headline stand on issues that have to be resolved in final status negotiations." He was speaking at a press conference in Amman attended by King Hussein.

Meanwhile, Israeli Arab parties

Salma I. Hussein and family wish to extend their deepest appreciation to the director of Bikur Holim Hospital and its staff, particularly to Dr. Arie Werczberger, Dr. Tania Sulitzer, Dr. Itta Goldstein, Dr. Mindy Gerssmann, Dr. Leif Schmuleritz, Dr. Goldfarb, and Dr. Victor Zesnovitzky, and to all the staff and nurses who attended to my health condition with such devoted effort during the course of my four-month stay at the hospital.

To all of them I am grateful.

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Attack on Paris Jewish school foiled

ELDAD BECK

PARIS

FRENCH security forces this week prevented a terrorist attack on a Jewish school here, and arrested several people suspected of involvement.

On Wednesday morning, a car bomb was discovered by French security agents next to Habad's Or Yosef school, while 300-400 children were studying in the building. The bomb was neutralized.

"The car was parked next to the school for several days, but the school's guards didn't notice it," one Or Yosef employee said. "The police closed the gates, not letting anyone out, and exploded the car."

Security sources in Paris said the French police had arrested several suspects of North African origin. It is not clear whether the planned attack was directly connected to the Arab-Israeli conflict or with Algerian fundamentalist groups that last summer committed several bombings all over France.

One of the targets last summer was the Jewish school in Lyon. Thirteen pupils were slightly wounded when a car bomb exploded in a street next to the school.

HEBRON

Porat's proposal also includes a number of economic measures to make life easier on Hebron Arabs. He suggested that Israel issue 2,000 work permits to Arab residents of Hebron, renovate the city's water system and improve its hospital; that the army create 3,000 temporary jobs for Arab residents; and that Israel and the PA engage in joint development projects to improve the city's infrastructure.

"I believe that if physical conditions were better, the political and security atmosphere would also be better," Porat explained.

Jewish residents of Hebron and Kiryat Arba, however, were upset by the proposal.

First of all, they said, no plan should have been drafted without consulting them.

Second, residents object to any armed Palestinian presence in the city.

"From Gaza, we learned that once [the Palestinians] have weapons, we can't control how many or what kind," explained Hebron Jewish residents' spokesman David Wilder.

expressed bitter disappointment yesterday and vowed to do all in their power to bring down the government and force early elections.

Hadash and the United Arab List warned that Netanyahu's foreign policy as outlined in his speeches in Washington would deal a death blow to the peace process and was likely to cause a resurgence of tension in the region generally.

"Netanyahu — both before the elections and since — has disavowed the peace process and agreements and has only paid it lip-service in order to appease the international community," said Hadash secretary-general Mohammed Baraki.

Winning numbers and cards

In last night's Paysis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 407785 won NIS 1,000,000.

The holder of ticket number 369409 won a car.

Tickets numbered 584124, 751438, 346779, 777517, 178128, 009400, 216854 and 835201 won NIS 5,000. Those tickets ending in 40198, 78536, 28635, 50580, 49704, 16970, 46251, 01802, 31491, 55926, 64055, 97043, 74640, 69842, 21704, 82490, 14734, 23209 and 99886 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 52, 157, 565, and 741 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 27, 75, 18, 50 won NIS 30. Tickets ending in 25 and 31 won NIS 20.

Tickets ending in 3 and 6 won NIS 10.

In yesterday's Mifal Hapais chance card draw, the winning cards were the nine of diamonds, seven of hearts, seven of spades, and seven of clubs.

Handwritten text at the bottom right: *תאריך יציאתי לרש"א*

Shahal: Mordechai doesn't understand separation plan

RABBI MARCUS

MK Moshe Shahal (Lahor) yesterday accused Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai of not understanding the separation plan for the Green Line area, before rejecting it outright. "If Mordechai would have studied the plans presented to him before visiting the area, he would have realized that the separation plan was originally suggested by the IDF, which is also responsible for building the separation fence," Shahal said. Mordechai visited the Green Line area on Wednesday. On being shown the construction stages of a wall between the new settlement of Bat Hefer and Tulikarm, Mordechai said that it was difficult to understand how it would help security. "The wall presents an obstacle to new settlements near Kalkilya and Tulikarm. It will not create separation," Mordechai said. But Shahal, who was the main initiator of the separation plan, accused him of not being sufficiently well-versed with the plan. Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani visited the area two weeks ago and said he was in favor of

the separation plan, but that "the future of the project depends on government policies." "Kahalani was in favor of extending the planned separation fences," said Shahal. "Mordechai does not understand the importance of the wall, seeing it as a threat to expanding new settlements, instead of as a genuine security measure to stop infiltrators from adjacent Arab villages." The IDF, he added, wanted a 28-km. wall, in contrast to the police suggestion of 22 km. "With the erection of separation walls, equipped with electronic surveillance equipment, the police and IDF can react immediately to infiltrators," said Shahal. Shahal intends to present a parliamentary question to Mordechai asking him why there should be a separation fence between Gaza and Israel, but not near Kalkilya. "Kfar Sava's Josephthal neighborhood is a five-minute bicycle ride from Kalkilya. How does Mordechai intend to defend those Kfar Sava residents? And how does he intend to defend Israelis in that sensitive area at all?" Shahal asked.

Parents blast court for letting officer remain in post

EVELYN GORDON

BEREAVED parents reacted angrily yesterday to a High Court of Justice decision permitting Col. Moni Horev to remain the head of the IDF Officers' Training School for another two weeks. Horev and four other officers are under indictment for negligence in the death of Yanai Shoshan, who was killed in a training accident in the North two years ago. According to the indictment, Shoshan might not have died had the lessons learned from a similar accident a few months earlier been applied. The trial is due to begin shortly. Shoshan's parents therefore petitioned the court against Horev's new appointment two weeks ago, arguing that someone who allegedly caused the death of one of his soldiers through negligence should not be entrusted with training other officers. Last Friday, Justice Dalila Dorner recommended that the army suspend Horev from his new position until the end of his trial, and gave the army a few days to consider this suggestion. At a hearing yesterday, however, the state said that Judge Advocate-General Uri Shoham had decided to give Horev a hearing before proceeding with the trial and might cancel the

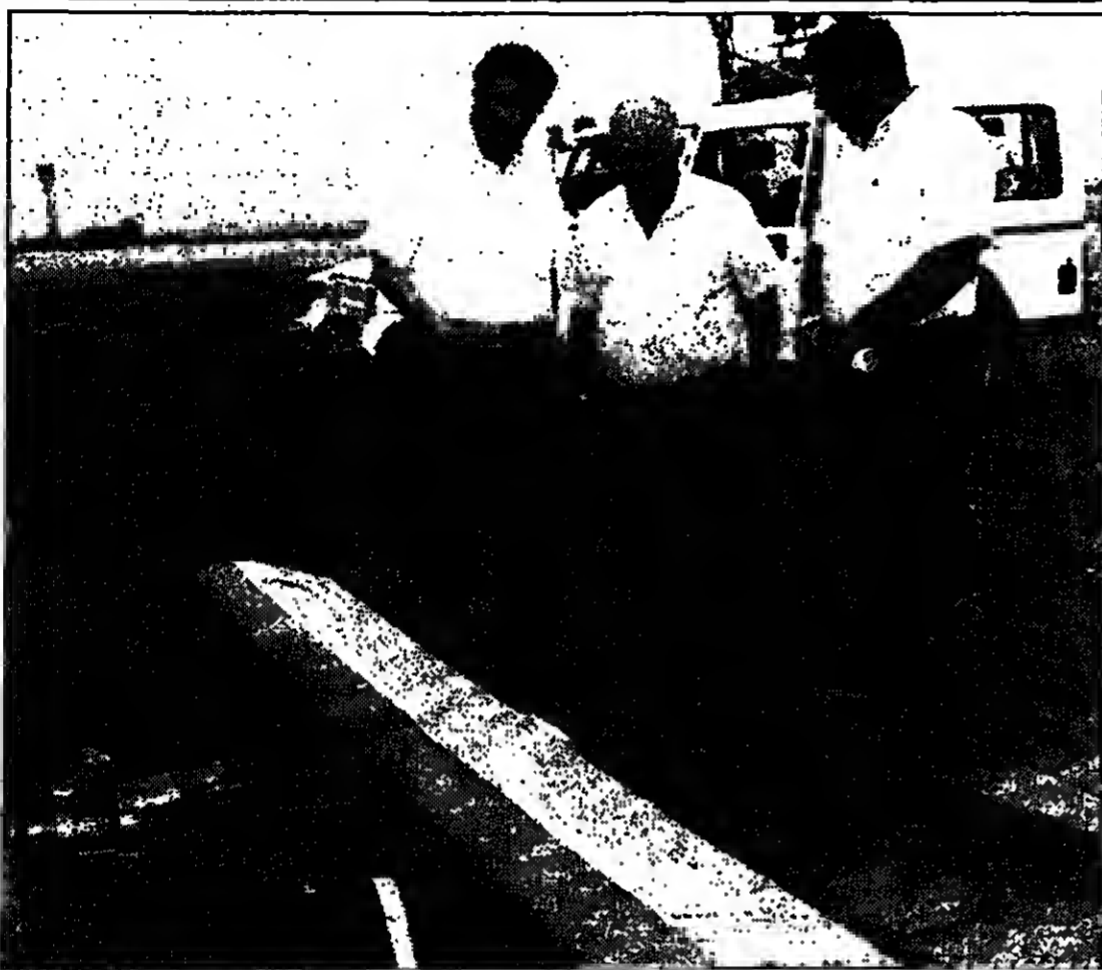
indictment as a result. It therefore asked that Horev be allowed to remain on the job until after the hearing, scheduled for July 26. Attorney Eliad Shraga, representing the petitioners, argued that as long as the indictment is in force, Horev has no business heading the training school. "I've never seen a case in which a hearing was granted after the indictment was filed," he added. "They're going to cancel the indictment." However, government attorney Yehuda Schaeffer argued that, in Shoham's view, the indictment is not valid until after the hearing, since a hearing is a fundamental right which had somehow been neglected in Horev's case. Dorner said it was surprising that Horev had not bothered to request a hearing until after the petition was filed. "What should have bothered him was the indictment, not the petition," she said. "Holding a hearing just because of the petition is seriously behindhand." Despite this, however, she decided she could not refuse Shoham's request.

Both the Shoshans and other bereaved parents who had come to the hearing were upset by this decision. "The IDF should not be giving immunity to officers like this," said Masoud Shoshan, Yanai's father, adding that while he could have accepted his son's death in battle, death in a training accident was a complete waste of life. "It's a disgrace that there are officers like this... Had [Horev] ever looked at the safety instructions, my son would be alive today." "My son's voice is crying out from the grave," he continued. "And I will keep fighting until we achieve our goal - that no more soldiers fall in training accidents." In other news, 42 bereaved parents have written a letter to various senior army and government officials demanding that former judge advocate-general Ilan Schiff not be appointed head of the Military Court of Appeals. The letter charged that Schiff was one of the chief architects of the policy of leniency toward officers whose negligence resulted in soldiers' deaths. Officers in such cases, the letter said, are generally either not tried at all or receive very light sentences, and this demonstrates contempt for human life.

Court: Party funding law changes are legal

EVELYN GORDON

A CHANGE in the party funding laws made just before the elections is legal, the High Court of Justice ruled yesterday. A petition against the change had been filed by two professors and a graduate student from the Hebrew University. The petitioners argued that the changes, which passed all three readings during the final Knesset session on May 1, violated the principle of equality enshrined in the Basic Laws and therefore should have required approval by a special majority of 61 MKs. Instead, they passed by votes of five or six to zero. One of the changes stated that parties would get campaign financing for MKs who broke away as if those MKs were still in the party - on top of the advances given the breakaways themselves. The second change said that parties would be able to change how their funding for this Knesset will be computed: either via the old system, whereby funding was allocated according to the number of MKs in the new Knesset, or via a new system slated to take effect in 2000 whereby funding is allocated according to the average of the number of MKs in the old and new Knessets. However, Justices Aharon Barak, Yitzhak Zamir and Tova Shrasberg-Cohen ruled that while these changes did involve some inequality, it was not significant enough to justify overturning a law. The change in the campaign financing rules does mean that parties with breakaways received more money per MK than parties without, the justices wrote. However, the campaign financing system inevitably contains certain inequalities. For instance, parties with less than five MKs in the outgoing Knesset all receive five funding units for their campaign, whereas parties with more than five MKs are financed according to the number of MKs they actually have. The crucial question, the justices said, is therefore whether this inequality affected any party's electoral chances - and it seems unlikely that it did. The second change also clearly created formal inequality, because it allowed veteran parties which lost seats to get more money than the number of MKs they had in the new Knesset, whereas new parties could not. However, the justices said, this would have been the case once the new system took effect in 2000 anyway. New parties will never have the benefit of averaging two Knesset returns. The court therefore rejected the petition.



Environment Minister Rafiel Eitan, flanked by Airports Authority Director-General Moti Debi and Ben-Gurion Airport managing director Shaul Hazan, inspects a drone used by the authority to detect and scare off birds in the airport area. (Shaul Rahavim)

Eitan backs Ben-Gurion expansion

LIAT COLLINS

AFTER touring the area of the Ben-Gurion 2000 development plan yesterday, Environment Minister Rafiel Eitan announced his support for the project. Eitan's predecessor, MK Yossi Sarid (Meretz), was opposed to the plan. Ministry officials denied that Eitan's support is connected to the fact that his director-general, Nehama Ronen, previously worked as a project coordinator for Ben-Gurion 2000. "The decision was the minister's, taken after he saw the site for himself. It was not Ronen's decision and she was not involved in it," said ministry spokesman

Yiftach Kramer. "Ronen quit the Ben-Gurion 2000 project completely and is no longer connected with it." Sarid, who lives in a Tel Aviv neighborhood affected by the noise of flights, had favored developing instead the Nevatim Airport in the South. Eitan said the Ben-Gurion 2000 was the "least bad option." He said modifications to the plans would be needed, after discussions, but the development project should continue. "All over the world, airports operate in residential areas," he said. He said the

present lack of a transport infrastructure at Nevatim made it "irrelevant as an alternative." The minister asked Ronen to convene a meeting with all the relevant bodies, including the Israel Airports Authority, professional experts at the ministry, representatives of environmental groups and local residents. A spokeswoman for the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, which has opposed the Ben-Gurion Airport project, said the group's position had not changed but has asked for an urgent meeting with the minister on the subject before deciding how to act.

Man gets life for murdering his lawyer

RABBI MARCUS

ARYE Mechurash, 45, from Rosh Ha'ayin, was sentenced to life imprisonment by Tel Aviv District Court yesterday for the murder of his lawyer, Avi Oren, in September 1995 in the latter's Petah Tikva office. Mechurash had been out on furlough from prison at the time, after Oren fought with Prison Service officers and police who had objected to the furlough since Mechurash was known as a dangerous criminal. He is presently serving a 22-year sentence for violent robbery and other offenses. Once out on furlough, he went to Oren's office - apparently to demand money he said he had deposited with his lawyer. He was

armed with a pistol, equipped with a silencer, together with gloves and handcuffs. There an argument broke out, and Mechurash boled himself up with Oren during the night until he was eventually persuaded to surrender after negotiations with police, a psychologist and others. But police, using electronic sensors were aware that Mechurash had shot Oren several times early on in the evening. The murder shocked criminal lawyers since the killing was a blatant violation of the code of ethics between clients and their attorneys. At first Mechurash admitted the

murder to police saying that Oren had refused to give him the money he owed him. Then, in court, he changed his mind and said that a "masked, religious man, acting for senior officials from the Petah Tikva municipality," had killed Oren and that he could not prevent the killing. Mechurash blamed Petah Tikva mayor Giora Lev for being behind the killing. Lev was summoned to testify, and described the whole idea as "lunatic." Judges Amnon Strashnov, Shelly Timen and Ze'ev Hammer did not buy Mechurash's version of events and sentenced him to life yesterday. His life sentence will start only in the year 2007.

Greenpeace: Planned incinerator an environmental menace

LIAT COLLINS

GREENPEACE, the international environmental organization, this week claimed the incinerator planned for the Ramat Hovav toxic waste disposal site poses serious environmental hazards including air and soil pollution. The group held press conferences simultaneously in several Mediterranean countries at which it issued a report on waste incineration and warned against using the method in Israel, Turkey and Lebanon. The group said developed countries are moving away from incineration because of the environmental consequences but the business concerns which use the technology are trying to transfer it to the Mediterranean, eastern European and Asian countries. An incinerator for organic waste is scheduled to begin operations at Ramat Hovav within the next few months. It is being established by a joint Israeli-Danish firm with the permission of the Israeli Environment Ministry and

is intended to burn 5,000 tons of organic toxic waste a year. Greenpeace's local representative, Ori Zik, said pollutants are released into the atmosphere during the process of incineration and at the end some waste still remains which has to be buried. Greenpeace's solutions include demanding that industries use smaller quantities of hazardous materials in the production process and installing better waste treatment facilities at factories to treat the problem on site. It said more environmentally-friendly technology than incineration should be used to dispose of the build-up of toxic waste at Ramat Hovav.

The head of the Environment Ministry's Hazardous Materials Department, Yisrael Barzilai, said in response that incineration is the only possible sophisticated environmental solution. The large quantities of waste at Ramat Hovav are a threat to the population, water sources, soil and general environment, he said. He said the incinerator would operate for a set period of 15 years under the strictest world standards on pollutant emissions. Barzilai rejected the alternative solutions offered by Greenpeace. He noted that a supervisory body including representatives from the ministry, Negev residents and Adam Teva Ve'Din (The Israel Union of Environmental Defense) would be established.

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OPINION

'Honest, I'm tapering off...'

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Social posturing

DURING Knesset discussions this week on the government's proposal to cut NIS 4.9 billion from the 1997 budget, it was hard to tell the difference between coalition and opposition. Coalition MKs, eager to position themselves as defenders of social justice, attacked the plan almost unanimously - sometimes without even a clear idea of what the plan included.

Virtually all MKs, coalition and opposition alike, agreed that a deep budget cut was needed, and needed now. However, they said, we do not like these particular cuts. It was a perfect example of what environmentalists call the NIMBY principle - do what you like, but Not In My Back Yard.

The only problem with this principle is that in practice, it does not work. As Finance Minister Dan Meridor correctly pointed out, it is impossible to make cuts without hurting someone. One can try to ensure that the poor are hurt as little as possible while still making cuts that are economically sound, but there is no way to cut painlessly.

It is precisely because each minister applied the NIMBY principle so zealously that no major cuts were ever made by the Rabin-Peres government. It is therefore very much to the credit of the current cabinet - 12 of whose 18 members have ever held a cabinet post before - that it understood this. Within a week of the plan's submission, the cabinet had approved it without a single "no" vote - though with three abstentions - despite the fact that it included cuts from every single ministry.

Unfortunately, the entire Knesset produced only one man of similar courage - and that an opposition MK, Avraham Poraz (Meretz) defied his own party to publish a press statement in favor of the budget cuts - not because he necessarily agreed with each individual cut, but because, as he said, a cut is necessary, and there will not be one if everyone opposes the specifics of every proposal.

None of this is to say that the government's proposed cuts are in every case the best possible. Indeed, as Meridor has said repeatedly over the past week, all wisdom does not reside in the government, and MKs have every right to try to change specific items. What they do not have the right to do, however, is to demand that certain cuts be revoked without suggesting alternative places to cut, or to demand that the cuts be accomplished in an economically damaging way - no matter how politically popular this might be.

The social lobby's favorite target is the

approximately NIS 8 billion a year which the government gives to the National Insurance Institute. At one time, this money was raised by a payroll tax on employers, and the social lobby wants a return to this situation. Employers are rich, they argue, so this is a truly painless way to make cuts.

The only problem with this, as every economist agrees, is that payroll taxes make it more expensive to hire workers. Therefore, slapping on an extra payroll tax is a good way to create unemployment - and the ones who will suffer most are not the rich, but the blue-collar workers who will suddenly be out of a job.

In fairness to the coalition, many of its veteran MKs did demonstrate some degree of responsibility. With a few surprising exceptions, such as habitual troublemakers Meir Sheerit and Shaul Amor (both Likud), most of the veterans prefaced their criticisms by saying that while they intend to try to make changes, they will support the government when push comes to shove.

The numerous freshman MKs, however, were virtually unanimous in insisting that they could not accept this plan under any circumstances. Unfortunately, as faction leader Michael Eitan (Likud) tried to explain to them, without coalition backing, there is no government. It might as well go home at once and call new elections.

The veteran MKs, fresh from four years of hell and furious opposition, are not ready to take this risk so early in the new term. As Silvan Shalom (Likud), who heads the coalition in the Knesset Finance Committee, said this week, one can only hope that the freshmen will learn quickly.

Meridor has expressed willingness to listen to all suggestions for alternative cuts, and has promised to accept any that are sensible and feasible. If the government's plan can be improved in this fashion, so much the better.

However, many of the changes demanded by the MKs will probably be neither sensible nor feasible. It is to be hoped that in this case, the government will stand firm - and that by the time the budget is brought to a final vote in December, the coalition will have learned the basic rules of parliamentary governance.

There is no disagreement within the economic community that a steep budget cut is needed, and quickly. The alternative, as Meridor pointed out in a rare burst of eloquence, is for the country to continue living beyond its means, and let our children pay the bills. It would be little short of tragic if a group of irresponsible MKs sentenced future generations to this fate.

Tip of a fiscal iceberg

AMOTZ ASA-EL

IN a week when the government shrunk its budget by a hefty NIS 4.9 billion, few paid attention to the NIS 25m. laddered out of a fiscal black hole unique to Israel, namely the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

At this early stage in the new government's term one must wait to see whether this week's cuts - if implemented - are followed by structural reform in the spirit of Binjamin Netanyahu's economically revolutionary election promises. At any rate, this week's measures will have been in vain if they aren't complemented by a comprehensive deregulation, demopolitization, and privatization plan.

But while these are being studied at various ministries, the new government seems unaware that it is equally vital to abolish entire state agencies that are redundant.

One such institution is the Ministry of Religious Affairs, a deformity that religiously gobbles up our money while encouraging bureaucratic corruption, tarnishing the image of well-intentioned rabbis and perpetuating the economic malaise of an already impoverished haredi community.

With NIS 1.2b. as its annual budget the ministry, invented by the fiercely anti-religious David Ben-Gurion as a Machiavellian tool with which to enhance the religious public's dependency on the secular state, may seem like a financial footnote compared with the defense or education ministries' multibillion-dollar budgets.

Yet unlike other ministers, who must transfer most moneys under their control to well-known, legally defined, and administratively supervised agencies, the minister of religious affairs gets to hand out the bulk of his budget to myriad yeshivot - Ashkenazi, Sephardi, beginners', advanced and newly-observant - allowing an armada of hacks, machers and low-ranking clerics to develop an intimate relationship with the national budget.

Of all the ministries, this is by far the most difficult to supervise, since locating all its numerous beneficiaries and verifying what exactly they are up to throughout

the year is well-nigh impossible. No wonder then that recent reports revealed several sparsely attended institutions, and others existing mainly on paper.

The first ones who ought to be alarmed by this situation should be the religious leaders themselves. Though as a collective they undoubtedly mean well and intend to promote nothing other than religion as they perceive it, their method of financing their endeavors exacts a public-relations price they can't afford.

The fact is that among secularist ignorant of Judaism, rabbis are oof often associated with the plutocratic, bloodsucking, self-centered stereotype that for centuries adorned antisemitic literature.

that goal. And a mechanism originally devised for other purposes has been hijacked in order to mass produce state-funded Torah-studies programs for young, able-bodied men who don't serve in the army and seldom fully identify with the state that feeds them.

Throughout Jewish history the dedication of an entire lifetime to Torah study has been the lot of a select few. The great learning centers of Lithuania, Galicia, Sura and Pumbedita were voluntarily supported by donors, not involuntarily by taxpayers, and were dedicated mainly to nurturing intellectual elites, not parasitic masses.

Even so, the Religious Affairs Ministry's most lasting material damage is inflicted not on the middle-class taxpayer who finances its existence, but - para-

The Religious Affairs Ministry does no one any good, least of all those it purports to aid

Certainly the embrace of such attitudes is primarily the fault of those who harbor them. Still, that doesn't warrant actively arming religion's adversaries.

Yet the situation is equally intolerable from a non-haredi viewpoint.

Having ballooned, in inflation-adjusted terms, by some 250 percent over the past two decades, the budget's innocent-sounding Torah research and study portion, which in the late 1970s supported a mere 28,000 students, now helps finance some 135,000. This, and out the building of ritual baths, cemeteries, synagogues - let alone mosques and churches - is where most of the ministry's resources end up.

THE STATE, which originally agreed to exempt haredim from military service because it recognized the need to rebuild the Torah world destroyed by the Nazis, has long since achieved

doxically - on the very people it purports to support.

Back in the 1950s, as a result of the haredi world's refusal to send its youth to the army, the state haphazardly conditioned its consent to national non-service by insisting on rendering the haredim a social disservice. It compelled non-soldiering haredi men to study Torah.

A generation later Israel's haredim - in stark contrast to their European and American cousins - are professionally aloof, socially marginalized, tragically ill-equipped to fulfill themselves economically and, in fact, often unable to feed, let alone house, their families without the taxpayer's assistance.

The sight of an Israeli-born haredi doctor, engineer, lawyer, or any other free professional is rare; the haredi man's good years, those precious 20s, wither away in the effort to flee the state's army as if it were the czar's.

In other words, the sprawling system of state-funded Torah studying is only the tip of a fiscal iceberg.

It begins with a young man's shunning of the labor market while clutching the skirts of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, continues with his dependency on the generosity of the Ministry of Housing, and ends up with his reliance on the Ministry of Social Affairs. The combined price tag of all these far exceeds that already sizable NIS 1.2b. we annually pay to the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Now, when the army says it has a surplus of new recruits, and with efforts to make Shas and the NRP share the Ministry of Religious Affairs proving as challenging as splitting the atom, the time is ripe for a historic deal between the government and the haredi world: The state could exempt haredim from military service after a mere three years of study in a yeshiva, while religious leaders agree to disengage yeshivot from the state faucet.

Consequently, the labor market would be able to tap, train and employ that majority of young haredim who, given a choice, would not spend so many years engaged in real or ostensible yeshiva studies. Ultimately the haredi community would considerably improve its economic condition, as, have other previously underprivileged classes of society.

The spiritual quest for otherworldliness is admirable. But the haredim, like the rest of us, must meantime live in this world. What they are doing is fast forming a Third-World enclave in the midst of a rapidly post-modernizing society. They risk being left behind.

To promote their own well-being, address their demoralization by secularists and contribute to Israel's fiscal health, it's time the haredim agreed to close down the Ministry of Religious Affairs and all it stands for.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the paper.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHO IS KENNETH KOSLOWE?

Sir, - In light of Binjamin Netanyahu's recent troubles with the press, I have decided not to wait to be found out, but rather, to voluntarily expose my sordid past. I, too, am the holder of various and sundry names and must probably also be a terrorist or spy. This only happened when I (and my dear wife Laurie) moved to Israel in 1979.

My name in Hebrew is alleged to be Kenet Koslowe. In the army, I only exist as Kenet Kishi. At my bank, I have various names, depending on which account one looks at. These range from the innocent Kenet Kobio to the sinister Annette Kogio. Has this man recently returned from surgery in Sweden?

When receiving mail from the National Insurance Institute, I am always addressed as Kenet Koslov, which immediately brings in suspicions of KGB involvement. At work in Herzliya I am known as Doctor Kenet, with no first or last name specified. However, I have saved the most damning evidence for last. Upon coming on aliyah, I applied for a job as a civilian employee for the Air Force. After one and a half years of exhaustive security evaluations, I was turned down because no file could be found in my name! Six months later such a file was located, but under the name Kenet Chaim (Chaim is my Hebrew name).

One last note. My dear wife Laurie recently fired our house cleaner. I am sure if some enterprising reporter finds him, he will be more than happy to say some nasty things about us.

A.K.A. KENNETH C. KOSLOWE, O.D., M.S. Petah Tikva.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Sir, - I agree it is a great idea to open every weekly session of the Knesset by reading out the names of those who were killed in traffic accidents during the preceding days. (J.P., July 7)

Lowering and enforcing the speed limits would be an even greater idea, so that the number killed in crashes could be reduced.

NIGEL WALLIS Jerusalem.

LIVES AND MONEY SAVED

Sir, - As David Bar-Ilan so succinctly stressed in his last editorial before leaving The Jerusalem Post to head the new prime minister's policy planning staff, if you spend a little you can get a lot in return. The initial outlay needed to set up traffic patrols, independent of the police, and installing monitoring devices, would be a comparatively tiny percentage of what would be potentially saved - i.e. lives (which should be our main concern at any price) and the billions of shekels spent on the thousands of citizens injured each year, and accumulating in our hospitals in a dizzying upward spiral.

The costs incurred by a seriously injured person (and between January and May this year there were 1,278 of them) generates no return in view of the fact that the following expenditure would be unnecessary if there were no injured persons.

The preliminary cost of police hours at the place of crash, traffic delays causing missed appointments, and road clearing crews. The intermediate cost of hospitalization and medication, and long-term costs of rehabilitation, disability payments, family welfare payments (after loss of breadwinner), ongoing psychiatric care. There are the insurance costs of compensation for pain and suffering and vehicle replacement and the cost to the employer of temporarily replacing his injured employee. Then there are the hidden costs to the country, such as strain on the family with the change in infrastructure, family visits to the hospital, the effect on children's school work. When a person is injured or killed you could say the effect is like the proverbial stone thrown into the pond - the ripples spread outwards forever.

The way backwards is in 13% fare hikes and cuts in the police force, as advocated in the latest budget. Citizens will be encouraged to take advantage of both ingredients in this recipe for disaster. The higher fares make it more attractive economically to buy a car, and with even fewer police around, the risk of getting caught while committing traffic offenses will be virtually nil. There will be mayhem on our roads.

FELICITY AMOS Vice-Chairman, Metuna Jerusalem.

BUDGET CUTS

Sir, - It must surely be a classic exercise in cynicism for the government to protest that it will not harm the less affluent with its budget cuts, and thereafter to legislate that, inter alia, pensioners, many of whom are hard put to make ends meet, are even further disadvantaged (e.g. the removal of the armco concession) while they themselves, together with all our "good mayors," have increases of 33 to 40% in the pipeline for their own already bloated salaries!

Kol hakavod to the few MKs and ministers who have had very nasty experiences with security at Ben-Gurion Airport. We got our tourist friends to the airport 2-3 hours before departure, found no one on security duty and when a few officials did show up, only Israelis, in a separate line (no discrimination of course) moved. Even when their line finished, nothing moved in the tourist line! No one minds security checks, but if they're needed, why can't there be people to do the checking? Standing in line without moving does not encourage tourism. We are frustrated. We encourage people to come and then they miss their flights because they had to stand in line. Would you, after this, come again or spread positive PR about visiting Israel?

REV. WAYNE KING Nazareth.

BEN-GURION SECURITY

Sir, - We have had it! In the past two months we have had very nasty experiences with security at Ben-Gurion Airport. We got our tourist friends to the airport 2-3 hours before departure, found no one on security duty and when a few officials did show up, only Israelis, in a separate line (no discrimination of course) moved. Even when their line finished, nothing moved in the tourist line! No one minds security checks, but if they're needed, why can't there be people to do the checking? Standing in line without moving does not encourage tourism. We are frustrated. We encourage people to come and then they miss their flights because they had to stand in line. Would you, after this, come again or spread positive PR about visiting Israel?

REV. WAYNE KING Nazareth.

CHELM OUTDONE

Sir, - Israel has outdone Chelm! Given all the traffic jams on our wretchedly inadequate roads and our excessively high accident rate, why are public transportation rates being increased? At the same time, rumor has it that car prices are to be decreased. The residents of Chelm couldn't have done it better.

SHULAMITH KRECHMAN Kiryat Motzkin.

Of princes and paupers

YOSEF GOELL

DEFENSE has always constituted by far the largest chunk in the state budget. The 1979 peace treaty with Egypt has made it possible to take the risk entailed in making some cuts in the defense budget, but it hasn't altered the basic budgetary picture.

For the better part of the past decade and more, salaries, retirement benefits and other regular army perks have accounted for a growing part of the defense budget. And the continued growth of regular army salaries as part of a dwindling defense budget has come at the expense of sums earmarked for investment in military research and development, operations and training that were supposed to herald the transition to a smaller, but smarter and more effective IDF.

It is no wonder that new finance ministers, who start off their tenure determined to deal with the budget deficit, always begin with demands for major cuts in regular army salaries, pensions, and perks - and end up with cosmetic snips here and there.

In the early 1950s the IDF's second chief of staff, Yigael Yadin, resigned over prime minister David Ben-Gurion's insistence on cutting the pitifully small defense budget in order to finance the massive aliyah that was coming into a dirt-poor Israel. Ben-Gurion was courageous to take the risk - and he was right, even though the IDF was dangerously underfunded. In 1996, Prime Minister Binjamin Netanyahu is insisting on a major cut in the defense budget not to finance aliyah, education, or other essential social and national needs, but to send Wall Street the message that his government cares more about the welfare of potential investors than it

does about the army.

There can be little doubt that army salaries and perks are vastly overinflated, given the country's other pressing needs. But so are the salaries of our judges, cabinet ministers, MKs, and all those whose salaries are linked to theirs. The problem, however, doesn't lie so much in the public sector, regardless of how much Netanyahu and his Social Darwinist cliques insist on bad-

greater, they come out relative paupers compared with the members of the new Israeli plutocracy, with whom they grew up and hobnob socially.

It is my assertion that the only real way to cut the unchecked outlay on army salaries is to begin by slashing the astronomical private incomes at the top. It's tough, but not impossible.

There is absolutely no evidence to show that our bank managers

Israel.

Netanyahu will succumb to pressures to compromise with the Palestinians long before he will give up on his gut conviction that the rich should be enabled to get richer, and hopefully trickle some of their wealth down to the lower orders.

Much of the public debate on the proposed budget cuts has concentrated on the inordinate burden imposed on the majority of Israelis with middle and lower incomes. Just as serious, however, is the certainty that a policy of fostering growing socioeconomic gaps will also profoundly undermine morale in the military.

Before his recent retirement former OC Air Force Herzl Bodinger warned that career combat pilots were refusing to renew their contracts. And only this week hundreds of career army officers announced they would be taking early retirement. Untrammeled free-market socioeconomic gaps are an obscenity at the end of the 20th century. They also constitute a mortal danger to Israel's ability to continue to defend itself in the face of continued threats.

The writer comments on public affairs.

The PM's message to Wall Street: Potential investors matter more than the IDF

Neither the IDF nor any other part of the public sector exists in a vacuum. IDF officers are part of Israel's social elite. As such, they - and their wives and children - constantly compare themselves, their incomes, and their living standards with other members of that elite.

What they find is that while they work much harder and shoulder responsibilities that are infinitely

and industrial leaders were any less motivated or functioned any worse a decade or two ago, when they took only a tenth or a fifth of what they are paying themselves today.

Which brings us to ideology. All indications are that Netanyahu and his circle of cronies are much more committed to the Social Darwinist ideology of 19th-century robber-baron capitalism in its modern Reaganite and Thatcherite versions than they are to the old Revisionist ideology of a Greater

POSTSCRIPT

NAPOLEON'S WATERLOO may have had its roots in ... Sumbawa, Indonesia.

According to a British magazine, Napoleon's defeat at the Battle of Waterloo in June 1815 may have been aided by the eruption of a volcano in the East Indies.

The Geographical Magazine said unusually heavy rains which

made the ground between Paris and Brussels almost impassable hampered Napoleon's attempt to launch an attack on Brussels.

Geologist Kenneth Spink said many geologists believe the heavy rains were caused by the eruption in April 1815 of Tambora, a volcano on the island of Sumbawa in what is now Indonesia.

Handwritten signature: chelmo 1996

Epitome of folly

ELYAKIM HA'ETZNI

In the decisions taken at the recent Arab summit in Cairo lies a hidden threat - war - in the event that Israel rejects Arab demands on Jerusalem, the establishment of a Palestinian state and the dismantling of all settlements.

Significantly, these objectives don't figure in the interim agreement, but are on the list of issues left for the final-status negotiations that opened in May.

What the new united Arab front has done is push Prime Minister Netanyahu into a kind of Catch-22 situation.

If he rejects a Palestinian state and a divided Jerusalem, he can expect military confrontation with the whole Arab world within three years. And facing us will be our new Arab "friends," including the Palestinians - only this time not as bands of stone-throwing children but as a 30-50,000-strong army.

Knowing the stakes will the premier really deal Arafat all the cards he needs to win the game?

It would be the epitome of folly for the government, knowing what stands waiting at the end of the road, to proceed nonetheless with the interim agreement, dealing Arafat in advance all the cards he needs to win the final contest.

a town like an isolated wedge, the dead end of a closed corridor.

Here are some of those cards: After three "redeployments" over an 18-month period, the whole expanse from the Green Line to the Jordan River surrendered to total Palestinian rule - with the sole exception of the settlements and IDF "security locations" to which our army will retreat and in which it will be holed up.

The northern Negev and the Lachish region, the whole area between the Gaza Strip and the Hebron hills losing its Jewish character and acquiring the international status of "safe corridor" between the two parts of "Palestine."

The whole electricity grid handed over to the PLO by international arbitration - its award being a foregone conclusion. The demographic balance in Eretz Israel to be irrevocably upset as a result of the influx of a million Arabs, the "displaced persons" of 1967.

The Palestinian Authority exploiting all the underground water of Judea and Samaria to the full.

Thousands of terrorists, some of

The new entity, a fait accompli, nationally established and internationally accepted, a full-fledged sovereign state in everything but name.

This would be the outcome of a crystallization of the interim agreement.

It would leave Israel no choice but to go along with Palestinian statehood.

SINCE THIS and this alone has been the real purpose of the interim agreement from its inception Netanyahu cannot possibly reject the idea of a Palestinian state and, at the same time, proceed with the strict implementation of the agreement.

He has to decide, and he must do it now, to freeze the interim agreement - the only way to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state - or go with it to the bitter end.

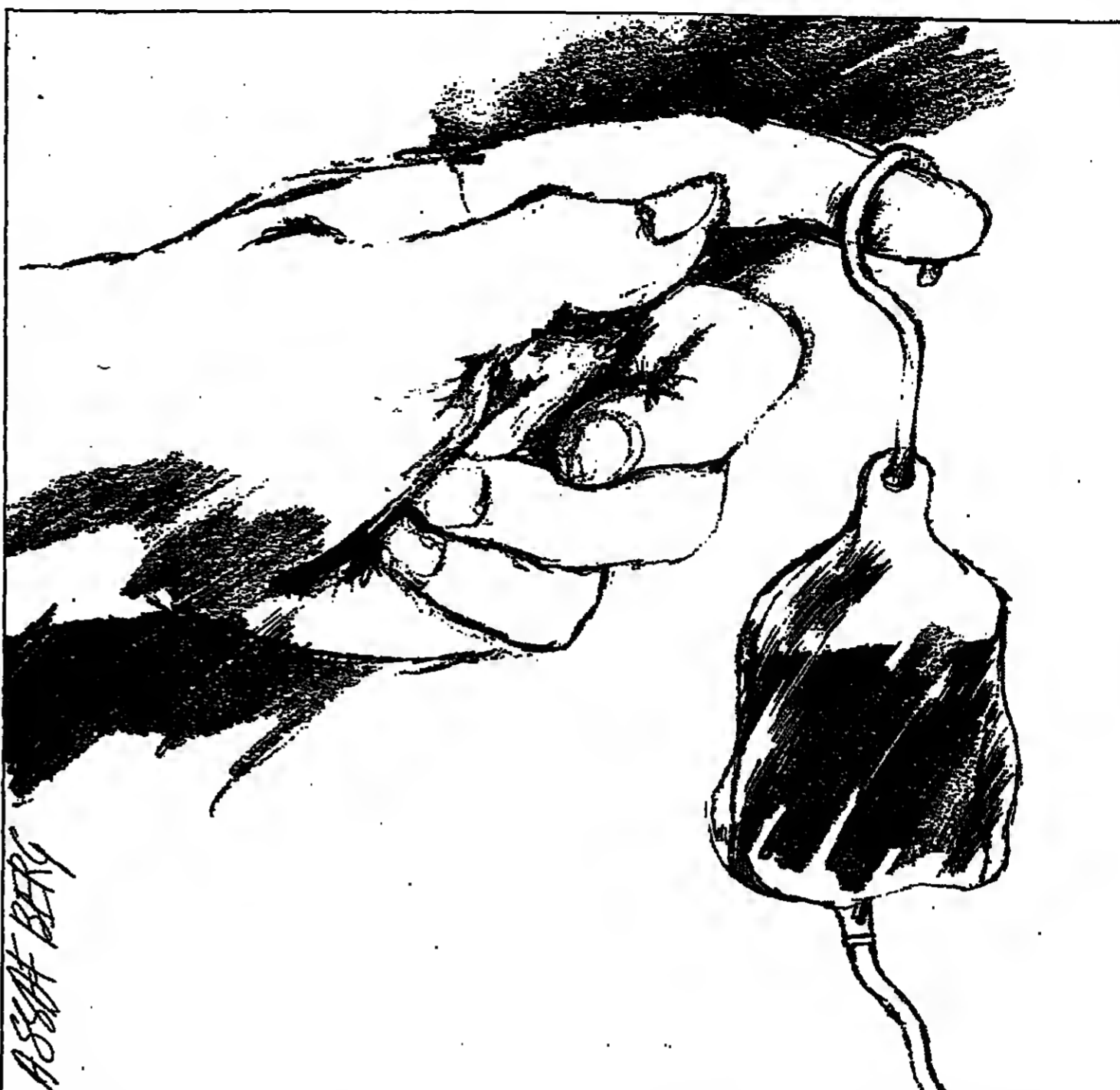
Those who summed up the closing communique of the Cairo summit as "not so bad" clearly didn't fully grasp the Arab concept of Oslo as Israel's solemn international undertaking to establish a Palestinian state. But this is how it is, and it's a hard fact the prime minister must confront.

To avoid the creation of faits accomplis before the final-status negotiations Netanyahu must skip over the interim agreement and proceed directly to the final stage, as Labor's Yossi Beilin proposed.

If a solution that Netanyahu's Israel can live with gets hammered out in the final settlement, it will render the interim stage superfluous.

Failing that, if the Arabs make good their threat to kill the "peace process" at the end of the interim road, then better it happens not after they've taken whatever they can get for nothing, but while we are still there on the hills, while we hold most of the infrastructure, maintain a reasonable demographic balance and control entry to and exit from eight Arab "pockets."

The writer, a lawyer and former MK, lives in Kiryat Arba.



Peace talks amid terror

MARK A. HELLER

AT HIS joint press conference with President Clinton this week, Binyamin Netanyahu explained why the first item on his agenda in any future negotiations with Syria will be the cessation of all terrorist attacks from Syrian-controlled areas in Lebanon or from groups based in Syria.

the 38 peace agreements negotiated after an armistice, only five occurred in the 60 years following the Greco-Turkish war of 1919-1922.

"I think that it's peculiar," he said, "to have peace talks that are progressing, while you have a terror campaign parallel to it. The cessation of hostilities usually precedes all peace negotiations. In fact, I'm hard-pressed to find exceptions in modern history."

He attributes this pattern to improvements in communications technology and changes in international legal norms, which encourage a much tighter interrelationship between violence and diplomacy.

Netanyahu may be a very good politician, but he is a very bad historian.

War termination and political settlement are bargaining processes, in which one central instrument is the use of force, and neither side will ordinarily renounce that instrument before an agreement is reached, unless the balance of usable force is so unfavorable that it is forced to capitulate.

In fact, there are lots of non-rival exceptions to Netanyahu's rule, including Korea, Algeria, and the two Indochina wars. Indeed, serious historical research shows that pre-armistice peace negotiations have become a common and increasingly frequent phenomenon in the modern era, and that the cessation of hostilities before negotiations is becoming the exception.

Netanyahu may be a very good politician but he is a very bad historian

Netanyahu may be a very good politician but he is a very bad historian

A particularly instructive example of such research is found in Paul R. Pillar's book *Negotiating Peace: War Termination as a Bargaining Process*, which examines the termination of 142 wars between 1800 and 1980.

they have left a very deep impression on all of us.

Pillar found that in two-thirds of the cases, settlement was reached after combat had ceased, i.e., that fully one-third involved peace negotiations before the cessation of hostilities.

Nevertheless, they are increasingly unrepresentative of the way most wars are fought and ended; and since Israel has never been able to translate its military superiority into political currency, they are certainly unrepresentative of the case which should most concern Netanyahu - Israel's relations with its Arab neighbors.

However, many of the cases in the first category were not pure post-armistice settlements, since military armistice agreements often influenced how substantive issues were later resolved.

WE'LL understand that Syria's Hafez Assad supports terrorism, and we all ardently wish that he would stop. What many of us do not yet understand is how Israel proposes to persuade him and his clients in Lebanon to separate the issue of violence from the issue of a political settlement.

Drawing from his own experience, the French military commander in Vietnam, Gen. Paul Ely, wrote that the distinction between a cease-fire with guarantees and a cease-fire after a political settlement was so slight as to be only "theoretical."

If coercion were feasible, no one would object to it on moral grounds, though even then a far-seeing Israeli government would be well-advised to heed the words of the South African statesman Jan

Smuts, who argued that "in a peace of reconciliation, the terms ought to be established before the enemy is finally defeated and therefore compelled to accept whatever amalgam of magnanimity, vindictiveness, and wisdom the victor chooses to impose."

But Smuts's advice, however sound, isn't really relevant. Unlike the victorious allies in the world wars, but like most parties to the kinds of negotiated agreements described by Pillar, Israel does not have the luxury of choosing which terms to impose.

As a result, Netanyahu's determination to make further negotiations contingent on an end to terrorism may be an admirable objective, but it raises more questions than it answers.

And these questions apply to both the Palestinians and Syria. What concrete measures must be taken? What evidence must be provided to prove that a definitive cessation of hostilities has actually been achieved? How much time must go by since the last terrorist attack before the prime minister can confidently conclude that his condition has been met?

These were all serious problems before the elections, and they are even more serious problems now that the government has essentially told Assad that he cannot expect to accomplish any of his objectives, even if he does comply.

The answers to these questions may not be found even in a systematic analysis of the lessons of modern history. But they are certainly not provided by off-the-cuff generalizations at a press conference. A more sober consideration of the type found in *Negotiating Peace* would be in order.

By the way - lest Pillar's findings be dismissed as the musings of a pointy-headed intellectual living in some ivory tower, he wrote the book while working as a political analyst at the Central Intelligence Agency.

The writer is senior research associate at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, Tel Aviv University.

The doctor who played God

JOEL REBIBO

MEDICAL history was made this week. Two doctors acknowledged that a colleague had "violated ethical rules" and acted with "carelessness" toward a patient.

What makes their move even more unusual - and courageous - is that they pointed the finger of blame at one of the most influential physicians in the country, Hadassah-University Hospital's Prof. Eliezer Rachmievich.

The two, Drs. Yossi Bar-El and Danny Geva, were asked by the Health Ministry to investigate allegations that Rachmievich, chief of hematology in the Ein Kerem hospital, had refused to treat cancer patient Dassy Rabinowitz.

The 19-year-old was in "serious danger," according to the report filed by the doctors, and Rachmievich slammed Hadassah's door in her face because, essentially, his ego had been bruised.

Rachmievich had treated Dassy for 18 months before deciding there was nothing more he could do for her. On rabbinical advice, she turned to Prof. Jacob Rowe, chief of hematology at Rambam Hospital in Haifa and a recent immigrant from England.

In Rachmievich's eyes, Rowe had two strikes against him: He too was an internationally respected expert, and he was an Orthodox Jew. In conversation with Dassy, Rachmievich referred to Rowe as "that distinguished kippa-clad doctor of yours."

In the wake of the doctors' report, the Health Ministry appointed an official complaints committee with the power to recommend suspension and evocation of Rachmievich's license. It will reach its conclusions within three months, but in the meantime Rachmievich continues in his post because Hadassah refuses to suspend him.

But it goes beyond cancer patient. But it goes beyond that.

It's about an attitude that is still prevalent in Israeli medicine. It's the attitude that says "You just patient, me all-knowing doctor."

When you ask about your condition and the proposed treatment, the doctor asks amusedly where you got your medical training.

Rachmievich's orders and provide the necessary transfusion? And what does that say about the relationship between Rachmievich and his staff - and its implications for patients' care?

Finally, if a doctor can feel comfortable enough to make snide comments about "kippa-clad doctors" in front of a religious person

hearing.

To be sure, the hospital is not legally required to suspend him at this stage. But it has a moral obligation to take a stand, to say that a department head with such serious charges hanging over him cannot continue to treat patients.

If Rachmievich were just a private doctor, the situation wouldn't be so serious. Word of mouth would warn away patients who want bedside manner and respect for their religious beliefs in addition to medical treatment.

Hadassah hospital's stand in the Rachmievich case shows Israeli medicine is still in a bygone age

And by daring to seek a second opinion you take your life in your hands.

A positive bedside manner is crucial to good medicine. That's a given in most advanced societies. How much more so in hematology, where teenagers like Dassy and their families are engaged in a life-or-death struggle with a grim disease.

When hospitals allow departments to be run by doctors of the European, autocratic school, the quality of medical care suffers.

On that day in May when Dassy came to Hadassah for a blood transfusion, Rachmievich wasn't around. Her thrombocyte (clotting cell) count was so low that she might have bled to death from a minor injury.

How can it be that not one of the doctors or nurses in attendance was willing to defy

like Dassy, how comfortable can Dassy, or kippa-wearing patients, feel in his care?

DASSY and her family deserve credit for finding the strength to fight, to expose what happened, for the sake of future cancer patients.

So does Health Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, for speaking straight from the shoulder about this week's findings.

After reading the doctors' report he said that Rachmievich's behavior violated "the most elementary norms of doctor-patient relations."

But Hadassah? The hospital hasn't risen to the occasion.

It allowed Rachmievich to run his department in the same way for years - despite complaints from patients - and it continues to find reasons to avoid doing the obvious: suspending Rachmievich pending the outcome of the legal

But this is a physician running a major department at the country's leading hospital, an institution supported by contributors worldwide. The Hadassah Women's Zionist Organization, which has built one of the best hospitals in the Middle East, must insist on the highest standards being maintained in every aspect of the doctor-patient relationship.

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never harm me," goes the proverb. But the Rachmievich case shows otherwise. It shows that arrogance can kill as surely as cancer.

There is a cure for arrogance, and if the Hadassah Medical Organization in Jerusalem refuses to apply it to Rachmievich, the world body must step in.

It must send a message to those who would play God at the expense of those who are most vulnerable: that Israeli medicine is, finally, ready to enter the 21st century.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff. His views are not necessarily those of the paper.

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British Citizens who have been resident in the United Kingdom within the last 20 years may be eligible to vote in the next general election, provided they register before 10 October (if previously resident in England, Scotland or Wales) or 15 September (for Northern Ireland). Application forms are available from the British Embassy in Tel Aviv or the British Consulate-General in Jerusalem. DS-98765

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Prof. ZEEV REISS

has passed away.

The funeral will take place today, Friday, July 12, 1996, at 11 a.m., at the Municipal Cemetery, Beit Shemesh.

In grief,
**The Reiss, Maron
and Altheim families**

With great sorrow and profound grief, we announce the passing of the beloved head of our family

ZEVULUN BEN DAVID ז"ל

The funeral took place on Tuesday, July 9, 1996 (23 Tamuz 5756) at Har Hamenuhot, Givat Shaul, Jerusalem.

Mourned by:

His wife, **Miram Ben David**
His children, **Dahlia and Josef Sztrigler**
Tamara and Zvi Sand
Roni and Ora Ben David
Navah and David Bilber
His brother, **Reuven Ben David and family**
His sisters, **Shula Rabelsky and family**
Adina Shalomoff and familyShiva at the home of the deceased,
26 Rehov Ussishkin, 3rd floor, Jerusalem.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our dearly beloved wife, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, and friend

URSULA DEUTSCH ז"ל

She was buried yesterday, Thursday, July 11, in the Tzur Shalom Cemetery in Haifa.

Husband: **Michael Deutsch**
Daughter and son-in-law: **Lidia and Paulus Boehmer**
Grandson: **Daniel**

We deeply mourn the passing of

Rabbi EPHRAIM ROTTENBERG

of Los Angeles/Jerusalem

on July 2, 1996 (16 Tamuz 5756) in Los Angeles

A spiritual and moral leader.
He will remain alive in our hearts.**His family and friends**

My beloved wife

BERTHA JAGLOM ז"ל

Nee Weikersheimer

will be laid to rest in Israel.

The funeral will take place today
Friday, July 12, 1996, at 10:15 a.m.
at the Hayarkon Cemetery.**Her husband, Edwin Harry Jaglom
and the family in Israel**To mark the first *Yahrzeit* of our husband, father and grandfather**Dr. YECHIEL (Charles) NAIMAN** ז"לwe will meet at the Eretz Hachaim Cemetery,
near Beit Shemesh, on Tuesday, 29 Tamuz, (July 16) at 6 p.m.
The Naiman Familythe israel museum,
jerusalem

mourns the untimely passing of

AMSCHEL M.J. ROTHSCHILDand extends heartfelt sympathy to
his wife, children, and to
The Rt. Hon. The Lord Rothschild**The Jerusalem Foundation**

mourns with the family of our dear friend

AMSCHEL ROTHSCHILDand extends heartfelt condolences
especially to his wife Anita and
his brother Jacob.With deep sorrow we announce the passing of
our father, brother and grandfather**IZAK SALOMON DE VRIES**The funeral will be held on Sunday, July 14, 1996
(27 Tamuz 5756), at 3:30 p.m. at the
Herziya cemetery, Pinsker St.

Mourners:

Son: **Michael (Mike) De Vries**
and family (Ramat Hasharon)
Daughters: **Tamar Walma and family (Holland)**
Chana Rubenson and family (Canada)
and the De Vries, Tal and Rinat familiesShiva the home of Michael De Vries, 14 Ha'avoda St.,
Ramat Hasharon.

Experts work on the bus that was bombed yesterday in central Moscow, injuring at least five people.

Bomb explodes on Moscow trolleybus; five hurt

A bomb ripped through the front of a trolleybus in the center of Moscow yesterday, wounding five people shortly after the vehicle passed the parliament buildings.

The blast occurred at about 9 a.m. when the trolleybus approached Pushkin Square, the most popular meeting place in the capital, about one kilometer from the Kremlin.

Just minutes before the blast, the bus had passed by the Duma, the lower house of parliament, and the Federation Council, the upper chamber, on its regular route.

Russian television said the device had a timer and had been placed on the bus 13 minutes before it went off.

The Interfax news agency said police were checking all downtown metro stations as a preventive measure.

The blast stoked tension in the capital where tempers have worn thin in a heatwave that drove yesterday's temperature up to 35C.

Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, quoted by Itar-Tass news agency, said the blast was clearly a terrorist attack. He said there may be a "Chechen trace" behind it but cautioned against early conclusions. "It's too early to say who is behind this terrorist act," Luzhkov told Tass.

News agencies
MOSCOW

In Chechnya, a senior Russian commander was killed yesterday by a landmine in a wave of violence spreading through the rebel region.

An armored vehicle carrying Major-General Nikolai Skripnik hit the mine in southwestern Chechnya where troops were fighting rebels in the village of Gekhi, Interfax news agency said.

Skripnik, 52, deputy commander of interior ministry troops in the North Caucasus, died soon after the blast. Interfax said several soldiers were also wounded.

The incident, coupled with continued fighting at Gekhi and tension around the village of Makhkety, demolished the last vestiges of a truce in Chechnya agreed by President Boris Yeltsin before he was re-elected to a second term on July 3.

The Moscow bomb and renewed violence in Chechnya lay down an early challenge for Yeltsin's new security supremo, Alexander Lebed, who on Wednesday was handed the top portfolio of fighting crime in the Russian capital.

Lebed, brought to the Kremlin by Yeltsin as part of his successful bid for re-election, seemed to have gained greater powers as secretary of the Security Council of inner advisers to Yeltsin.

Interfax said that part of his new duties would be to advise Yeltsin on the background of candidates for any new important post — a job that might give him enormous influence over some future state or defense appointments.

Russian troops have been pounding Gekhi, 30 km southwest of Chechnya's capital Grozny, since Tuesday. On Wednesday Russian forces blockaded the village of Makhkety, 35 km south of Grozny, where they believe the mobile headquarters of rebel leader, Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev is based.

Skripnik was one of the most senior Russian soldiers to die in the Chechen conflict, which began in December 1994 when Yeltsin sent in troops and tanks to stop the mainly Moslem region splitting from Moscow.

Yeltsin, worried that the conflict, in which more than 30,000 people have died, could upset his chances for re-election, signed a truce with Yandarbiyev in May.

Catholics angry over N. Ireland march

PORTADOWN (Reuters) — Police trying to defuse the worst Protestant unrest in Northern Ireland in decades reversed a ban on a Protestant parade yesterday and sparked Roman Catholic and Irish government anger instead.

Enraged Catholics threw stones and petrol bombs and clashed with police when 2,000 members of the hardline Protestant Orange Order were finally allowed to parade through the Catholic, pro-Irish Garvaghy Road area of Portadown after a bitter five-day standoff.

Irish Prime Minister John Bruton, Britain's partner in the

quest for a lasting Northern Ireland settlement, said the decision was "quite mistaken," and he would ask British Prime Minister John Major for an explanation.

A Dublin government statement said parades should not be allowed where they were not wanted and "the abrupt reversal of the decision about the route of the Orange parade is regretted."

Police reported scattered violence in Catholic areas of Belfast in protest against the staging of the march but said it was minor and in no way matched five days of Protestant unrest which brought the British province to its knees.

Roads had been blocked by makeshift Protestant parades and police were firebombed for four nights in a wave of protest not seen since the start of the "Troubles" 27 years ago.

Northern Ireland police chief Sir Hugh Amessley said he overturned his own ban on the parade because of four nights of rioting across the province by pro-British Protestants angered at what they saw as a denial of their birthright.

Protestants said the ban was a concession to the guerrilla Irish Republican Army and its political wing, Sinn Fein, who seek to end British rule and reunite the province with Ireland.

Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, said: "It is self-evidently right for police decisions to take account of changing and developing circumstances. The violence which has disfigured the province has to stop."

Amessley said his U-turn eased

a potentially violent crisis on the eve of July 12, the most hallowed date in the Orange Order calendar. But police and British troops remained on high alert as anger spread in republican strongholds.

Residents of the Garvaghy Road, a Catholic enclave where Irish nationalist feelings have run high in an overwhelmingly Protestant town, stoned police and hurled petrol bombs as the parade was allowed to walk briskly past their doors protected by armored police vehicles and hundreds of riot police.

"It's a complete betrayal of trust," said Brendan Mac Cionnail, leader of the residents along the Garvaghy Road.

"The question has to be asked, now is why is (the police) backing down to the Orange Order? Why is the British government backing down to the Orange Order who for four days and four nights have run amok with their supporters throughout the north?"

Both leaders have been indicted for genocide, and crimes against humanity, for being the architects of virtually all major atrocities allegedly carried out by their forces, including the torture, rape and mass murder of Moslems.

In Tuzla, Bosnia, world women leaders joined Bosnian Moslem refugees yesterday in calling for truth and justice at an emotion-laden commemoration of the first anniversary of the bloody fall of Srebrenica.

Investigations by the International Criminal Tribunal on former Yugoslavia indicate that separatist Serb forces massacred anywhere from 3,000 to 8,000 Moslem men and boys when they overran Srebrenica.

"War criminals must be brought to justice," European Commissioner for humanitarian issues Emma Bonino told 6,000 Srebrenica women refugees packed into a sports hall, many of them weeping for missing relatives.

NATO, now policing Bosnia's new peace, says it cannot hunt down indicted war criminals in Serb-controlled territory for fear of casualties to its troops.

But UN war crimes investigators have started excavating mass graves believed to contain some of the thousands of Moslems missing since Srebrenica's conquest.

Polish president: Auschwitz construction haltedMARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

THE president of Poland, faced with the on-off construction of a supermarket near Auschwitz, has assured American Jews that building has now stopped.

The Polish government ordered a local developer to halt work on a small shopping center in existing buildings opposite the Auschwitz gate, which aroused worldwide Jewish opposition.

President Aleksander Kwasniewski said he has plans to protect the former death camp without affecting services for visitors or the local residents.

"The government has a plan to organize life in the city so that a place of death is a place of death

and a place of life is a place of life," he told the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in New York.

Poland has just drafted a costly program to conserve the Auschwitz site but Kwasniewski gave no immediate details of the plan.

He was in the United States this week mainly to discuss Poland's bid to join NATO.

"The president made a good impression. I think he is a sincere man," said Benjamin Meed, head of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors. "He probably means well."

On the
First Anniversary
on the passing of our dear**NUSSEN LEHMAN** ז"לa memorial service will take place
at the graveside on
Sunday, July 14, 1996 at 8:00 a.m.
at Har Hazetim, below the
Intercontinental Hotel**Rabbi Leib Baron of Montreal, Canada**is sitting shiva for his late brother
until Wednesday morning, at
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NEWS IN FOCUS

The Jerusalem Post Friday, July 12, 1996

The 'pragmatist' isn't a populist Striking a chord with Congress

For all Netanyahu's rhetoric in Congress, serious differences with the Clinton administration remain, David Makovsky writes

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's formidable rhetorical skills were a hit in Congress. But his actual policies were less popular with the Clinton administration.

The talks with White House officials did not go well and now they are deeply concerned about the future of the peace process. Most critically, they are becoming increasingly dubious about the claim that the premier is a pragmatist.

Yet due to the upcoming US elections, and the persuasive skills Netanyahu displayed in his Congress address, it seems that disagreement will not lead to open confrontation between the two leaders, for now.

The administration came away from the Netanyahu visit with no sense of how he plans to move the peace process forward with the Palestinians, even assuming Israeli security concerns are satisfied. As far as can be determined, Netanyahu said very little to Clinton that he did not say publicly at the press conference afterwards.

The Clinton administration came away from the Netanyahu visit with no sense of how Netanyahu plans to move the peace process forward

The conversation between Netanyahu and Clinton was pointed, although not openly acrimonious. Clinton's remarks seemed focused on the Palestinian track. While respecting Israeli security concerns, Clinton wanted to know what Israel's intentions were on settlements. The president also stressed the need not to undermine Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat.

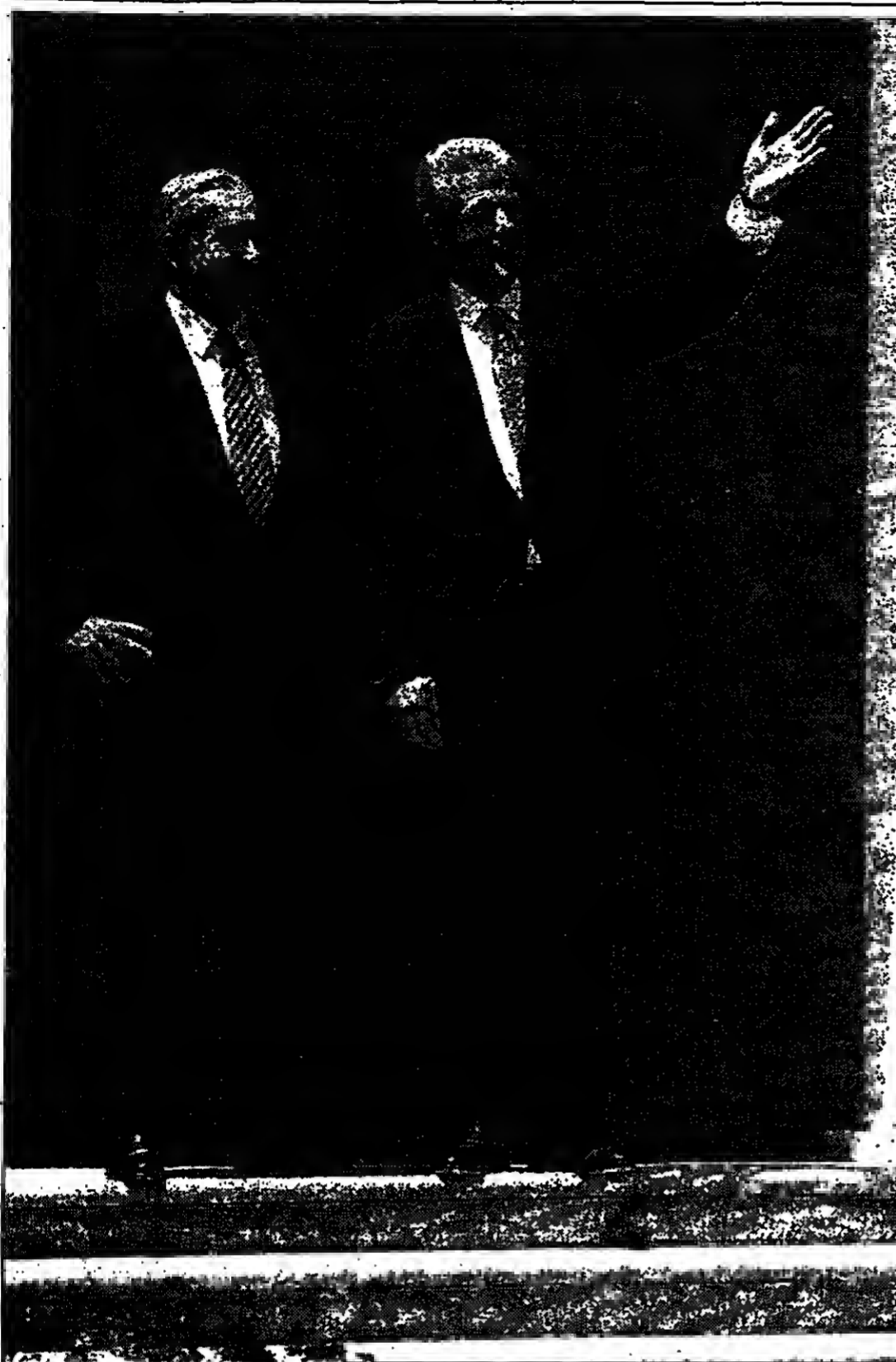
Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher see the construction of new settlements as a major irritant to the peace process — even more than the expansion of existing settlements. Yet they failed to elicit from the prime minister a commitment not to establish new settlements.

Moreover, Netanyahu used a press conference at the White House as a platform to suggest that he was considering increasing settlements by 50 percent over the next four years, knowing that Clinton would be reluctant to challenge him in front of the cameras.

As senior Israeli officials put it, there was a decision to prefer "clarity" over the blurring of differences. (The souring of the relationship between president George Bush and prime minister Yitzhak Shamir was due to a misunderstanding that emerged on the issue of settlements after their first meeting in 1989.) Netanyahu said: "We have to be clear [in] telling the US what we can do and what we cannot do."

Yet the Clinton administration felt that it gained more of a sense of what Netanyahu could not do due to "reciprocity" than an understanding that he would do to advance the peace process. It did not expect Netanyahu to renounce campaign promises and suddenly embrace "land for peace," but officials were hoping that they would be given something to work with in dealing with the Arabs.

Not only did Netanyahu not inform Clinton when Israel



Due to the upcoming US elections, and the persuasive skills Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu displayed in his Congress address, it seems that disagreement will not lead to open confrontation between him and US President Bill Clinton, for now.

would pull back from Hebron or when he would meet Arafat, he made no pre-meeting announcement on easing certain aspects of the closure, which would have enabled the US to tell the Arabs that they should give him the benefit of the doubt.

Instead of pointing to concrete examples, the administration is left briefing third-party countries that Netanyahu should be given time for his policies to gel.

The administration has yet to be convinced that Netanyahu has a proactive strategy on how to make progress on a broad range of peace-process issues, ranging from the closure of the territories to preparation for the upcoming Cairo economic summit.

One senior administration official said: "The Israeli-Palestinian relationship has an ongoing security component and an ongoing economic component. Yet even if these two dimensions will be dealt with adequately — and there is reason to believe they will be — the deeper question remains. Is Netanyahu committed to a partnership with the Palestinians?"

"In the past, Israelis and Palestinians underwent crises, but they survived them because they were both committed to a partnership. Is this prime minister as committed? We just do not know."

AMERICAN officials are concerned that Netanyahu has yet to prioritize the peace process and recognize its scope. (Former peace-process coordinator Uri Savir calculated that he spent some 3,000 hours negotiating with the Palestinians over the years.)

While voicing respect for Netanyahu's foreign-policy adviser Dore Gold, the administration is amazed that he has not been given staff to assist him in the peace talks. Savir had the entire foreign policy bureaucracy at his disposal. But now Foreign Minister David Levy's threats to the premier bring into question the extent to which Netanyahu can trust the Foreign Ministry on the sensitive issue of the peace process.

US officials believe that key aspects of the Palestinian issue cannot be neglected or else tensions will begin to flare up

within a month. Moreover, they are convinced that a deterioration on the Palestinian front will lead to Jordanian public opinion constraining King Hussein's open cooperation with Netanyahu.

Officials say that some "verge" issues must be dealt with now. In particular, they are concerned with an IDF pullback from Hebron. But no less critical is an easing of the closure.

One official noted that the IDF civil administration has put forward its recommendations on how the closure can be eased so as to avoid a growing pressure-cooker atmosphere without sacrificing security.

This would involve allowing more Palestinian workers to cross the Green Line and a safe passage arrangement, involving the escort of IDF convoys, between the West Bank and Gaza.

To these officials, avoiding the closure of Orient House is another priority: The Clinton Administration is not yet convinced that the Palestinian institutions operating in Jerusalem are indeed performing the functions of the PA.

The Americans are also worried about Jewish expansion of Jerusalem in Har Homa. "The tractors are ready to go, but once they do, the Palestinians are going to bring this issue to the UN Security Council," said one official.

EVEN ASIDE from the specifics of the Palestinian track, there seems to be a feeling of wariness between Netanyahu and Clinton. US officials do not seem convinced that Netanyahu or his American Jewish supporters will refrain from unfurling Congress as a means to put pressure on Syria. In the days of the previous Labor-led government, the US administration relied on Israel to counter Republican-led congressional initiatives on the Middle East that it did not like.

Several US officials are convinced that it is only a matter of days before members of Congress put forward initiatives against Syria. Yet the administration insists it has no evidence of any Syrian involvement in the recent bombing in Saudi Arabia.

US officials believe that key aspects of the Palestinian issue cannot be neglected or else tensions will begin to flare up within a month

However, officials close to Netanyahu say that Israel's approach to dealing with Syria is measured. The prime minister did not come to Washington urging sanctions upon Damascus, nor is Israel seeking to stir up Congress.

US officials say what is lacking from Netanyahu's warning against Syrian-sponsored terrorism is an incentive, related to the Golan Heights. Instead Netanyahu has dangled an Israeli pullback from southern Lebanon as the prize for Syria's good behavior.

Yet there seems to be a growing sense that Netanyahu will not pay a political price in the US for being tough with the Syrians. Perhaps the fact that Christopher has made over 20 trips to the region (including being cold-shouldered for a meeting with Syrian President Hafez Assad in April) has helped change the zeitgeist.

This week the liberal *Washington Post* called Assad "the president of terrorism."

Even Clinton reportedly said that Assad may have miscalculated and missed an opportunity to regain the Golan, an opportunity which may never reappear.

More and more people in Washington are asking at what point is Israel going to bomb Syrian targets in Lebanon in the event of Syrian-inspired violence in southern Lebanon. Should this happen, the US administration is concerned that it will be brought into the middle, so it is trying to discourage the parties from such escalating violence.

If it was up to the Clinton administration, the Middle East would disappear until after the November election, and only afterwards would a freshly empowered Clinton deal with the issues at hand. But in this region crises have a way of asserting themselves and the leadership of Netanyahu, as well as his relationship with Clinton, might very well be tested.

Binyamin Netanyahu scored points with Congressmen, but not with the Arabs, reports Hillel Kuttler in Washington

FOR members of Congress — particularly fiscal conservatives — Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's declaration to them on Wednesday that he would gradually wean Israel from American economic assistance was a breath of fresh air.

But Arab observers took a different approach. For them, Netanyahu's reiteration of his cautious line on peace and security matters is the primary yardstick, one where he came up decidedly short.

So much so that even Arab countries with which Israel has relations sent low-level representatives to Netanyahu's address to Congress. Egypt's ambassador, Ahmed Maher el-Sayed, was among those who decided not to attend at all.

"I knew the message would be something I would be opposed to, so why go and sit there while others are clapping?" he said.

He described Netanyahu's call during Tuesday's press conference with President Clinton for a reeducation of schoolchildren throughout the Arab world toward accepting Israel's permanence, and his statements before Congress on the need for human-rights standards in the Middle East, as "condescending."

Netanyahu's claim that Israel has satisfied 90 per cent of its land concession obligation under 1967's UN Resolution 242 is an "old line" that has not been seriously discussed by an Israeli government in years, el-Sayed asserted.

Arab American Institute president Jim Zogby, who heard Netanyahu address a forum organized by *Middle East Insight* magazine, acknowledged that Netanyahu's rhetoric had moderated from the campaign but added that "he's got a long way to go."

"What peace is about is defining [reality] in a new way," he said. "Totally absent in his pillars of peace is the issue of justice. The Syrians have a land claim, the Palestinians have a land claim, the Lebanese have a land claim. He wants to not only move on a different track, he wants to set new markers."

"I don't think he scored any points with the Arabs. It's not a matter of closing the door. He's not bolder anything open."

Leading congressmen and senators, on the other hand, said they anticipate excellent relations to develop between Capitol Hill and the new government, due in large part to Netanyahu's recognition of American fiscal realities both at home and abroad.

OUTSIDE political observers here said Netanyahu's coming here on his inaugural trip and offering to develop his plan within the next four years was a brilliant preemptive attack to head off inevitable future cuts.

They also said it neutralized a potential lever of a future administration or Congress unable to steer Netanyahu toward territorial concessions in the peace process.

At a dinner in Netanyahu's honor at the Israeli Embassy on Wednesday night, the buzz was of the premier's economic message.

So much so that Netanyahu himself said he felt the need to clarify, for the umpteenth time that very day, that as the Israeli economy matured, he envisioned a gradual reduction in aid — with

the emphasis on "gradual."

"Between childhood and maturity, there's adolescence — and we can't rush things," he stated.

Israel's \$3 billion annual aid package — of which Netanyahu's proposal would affect only the \$1.2 billion in economic assistance — is already assured for the fiscal year that begins in October.

In interviews, Republicans and Democrats said that as they contemplate additional cuts to foreign assistance programs, Netanyahu's offer makes their job easier.

House appropriations committee chairman Robert Livingston said that while the details remain to be discussed, Netanyahu's proposal sends an "encouraging message to Congress" that there is "a light at the end of the tunnel."

Patrick Leahy, the top Democrat on the Senate foreign operations subcommittee, said that key congressional appropriators will begin discussions next year and Israeli representatives will add input on how Netanyahu's proposal may be implemented.

"Israel is not helped by having an automatic umbilical cord to the US. That does not detract from the US having strong ties to Israel [but dependency] doesn't help Israel, doesn't help us," he said.

House foreign operations committee chairman Sonny Callahan commented, "It sounded good to me. There's no question [foreign aid cuts] had to be done anyway."

Aside from economics, other conservative messages struck a chord in the halls of Congress. Dana Rohrabacher, a member of the House international relations committee and a former speechwriter for Ronald Reagan, called Netanyahu's linking human rights to the need to democratize the Middle East a "Reaganesque touch."

"Reagan always stressed the importance of human rights to peace. I think that's what the prime minister was talking about today..."

"The most important thing is what he does and how he conducts himself. We like what he says because he's straightforward and strong."

Nor was Netanyahu's American orientation lost on lawmakers. "It's obvious because of his language skills, he seems like one of us," and that raises the level of communications with the Israeli government "one or two rungs up the ladder," said committee member Donald Manzullo.

Following a luncheon for the premier hosted by the committee, Matt Salmon, a freshman, interrupted to say that Netanyahu had invited each member of the committee to meet with him should they visit Israel.

"That kind of open-door policy will go over well in Congress. We're ecstatic about Netanyahu," he said.

But James Moran, a Democrat on the committee, sounded a note of caution. He said Netanyahu's policies on settlements, the Golan and Jerusalem create the very preconditions the premier said he opposes on the Arab side and close off the chances of making peace.

"There's a reason to be concerned because I'd like to see peace for Israel," Moran said. "And you don't get peace by making bellicose and someone would say intransigent statements."

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Until the last soldier comes home

WHEN my son Zack (Zacharia) enlisted in the IDF, it was my basic expectation that he could be called upon to put his life on the line," says Yona Baumel. "I also expected that I was entrusting his life to people who would be responsible for his return. Is that too much for a parent to expect?"

On June 11, 1982, at the Battle of Sultan Yakoub, Zacharia was captured by a PLO splinter group loyal to Yasser Arafat. The terrorists eventually defected to Syria, where witnesses reportedly saw Israeli MIAs in their company.

The Baumels have been fighting a 14-year battle to get Israel to "bring our soldiers home." This week, Zacharia's mother, Miriam, accompanied Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on his maiden voyage to Washington.

As the prime minister demands that the Palestinians to honor all agreements, Miriam Baumel wants to press the government to make the return of all the MIAs a condition for future talks and prisoner exchanges.

With Arafat wanting the remaining 3,000 Palestinian prisoners to be released, Baumel believes the MIAs are a strategic pawn.

"The Palestinian Authority has breached commitments to cooperate in our search for the missing soldiers," says Yona Baumel. "The future of the Palestinian Authority must be directly linked to the future of our son and his comrades."

PERHAPS it is Netanyahu's personal loss of his brother Yoni in the rescue at Entebbe which drives him to help the families of the MIAs. This was underscored by his invitation to Miriam Baumel to join his first official visit to the US.

But Yona Baumel says he finds it most difficult and frustrating to comprehend that while the US government has linked the fate of the Israeli MIAs to the future of the PA, the Israeli government until now has avoided implementing direct linkage.

"In February of this year, the United States Congress passed the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act. Senator Jesse Helms inserted an article in the act making future financial commitments with the PA contingent on factual conclusion of the MIA question in relation to any Americans being held by the PLO. The only individual who this act applies to is our son, Zack Baumel."

"Do you mean to tell me," says Baumel, "that the American government cares more about an Israeli soldier who happens to hold American citizenship than its own soldier? It is absurd and



Miriam and Yona Baumel hold up a picture of their son, Zecharia, who is an MIA. Under pressure, Yasser Arafat procured half of Baumel's dogtag (inset). (Efraim Klibanik)

The families of the MIAs hope the Netanyahu government will make the return of their loved ones a condition for continuing the peace process, Yechezkel Goldberg writes

tragedy it is true." While the excuse used to be that there was no address in the Arab world to approach for information about the MIAs, once Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres became peace partners with PLO leader Yasser Arafat, that was no longer a legitimate claim, Baumel notes. "Peres would do anything to keep his fragile and weak house of cards from collapsing. This included letting the missing soldiers be forgotten and rot."

BAUMEL, who has been called a mini-Mossad due to the extensive contacts he has developed throughout the Arab world, is convinced that his son is alive. Shortly after the Battle of Sultan Yakoub, a gala public funeral was held in the Damascus Jewish cemetery. The date was July 4, 1982. Four bodies were buried in a public ceremony and Syrian authorities claimed at the time that the four were Israeli soldiers from the battle, including Zack Baumel and his comrades. Closer examination of the site showed that the names written on the grave sites were names of Israeli soldiers who actually returned home, but who had left behind personal effects at the battlefield. "This was verified by former

United States senator Charles Percy who headed the Foreign Relations Committee at the time. Friendly with Syrian President Hafez Assad, Percy was persuaded by mutual contacts to apply pressure on Assad to allow the graves to be exhumed."

The graves were exhumed and based on forensic findings they concluded that one Israeli soldier and three Arabs were buried in the Jewish cemetery, Baumel notes. "As recently as a few days ago we received information that there are two boys from the Battle of Sultan Yakoub who are still alive. We have every reason to believe that our sources are correct," he says. "Take for example the half dogtag that Arafat gave to Rabin. It was us who had told Rabin exactly where the whole dogtag was located. Rabin gave Arafat the information, which was so accurate that we were able to lead to its discovery right under Arafat's nose."

Rabin told Baumel about 18 months ago that "Arafat knows about the MIAs but he is scared of Assad." "It is inconceivable that after the big anti-terrorism summit in Sharm el-Sheikh, and the recent major meeting of the G-7 nations, the missing Israeli soldiers are still an unresolved issue. It is because of money," says Daniel Grisarou, spokesman for the National Coalition of Missing Israeli Soldiers. "Recently Warren Christopher spoke of plans to open a branch of General Motors in Syria in order to enable the Americans to compete with the Japanese production of low-priced cars."

"It is also because of land. Whether it is Judea and Samaria or the Golan Heights, the missing soldiers are the bait for negotiations. As terrible as it sounds, the seven missing soldiers are caught

up in the middle of cold-blooded business."

He continues, "If the Israeli government was keen on bringing the MIAs home it would have taken care of it long ago. When France had two soldiers missing in Croatia, the French forces bombed the enemy until the soldiers were returned. When the US had 10 MIAs in Iraq, they followed the same tactic until the missing soldiers were handed over."

Grisarou claims that the IDF has the capability of saving missing soldiers, and has done so in the past. "When the son of Brig.-Gen. Haim Bar-Lev was reported missing in Lebanon about six years ago, a large search and rescue team was sent in. The team located Omri Bar-Lev less than 200 meters from a Syrian position within 24 hours of his disappearance. Had the IDF sent in a team to search for Zack Baumel and his buddies right away, there is no doubt these boys would have been home 14 years ago. What has happened is inexcusable."

The pain in Yona Baumel's voice is clear. "I sent my son to the army so he could defend Israel: I expected the military to be responsible and care for him. Simple reciprocity. I was naive. As I reflect on what my wife and I have endured for the last 14 years, my expectations have become crystal clear. The army must be able to look every parent straight in the eye and tell them definitively, whether their son is dead or alive. One cannot imagine the fear of not knowing. It is unbearable."

"The Battle of Sultan Yakoub took place 14 years ago," Baumel concludes, "For us, for the families who are still wondering about the fate of our sons, the battle is not over. It is a living hell."

Political freedom or economic prosperity?

Ending the closure while backtracking on Oslo 2 will increase Palestinian anger, argues Jon Immanuel



Hebron is a thorny issue at the negotiating table. (Brian Hendler)

THE government's policy resembles both sides in the parable of the wind and the sun. The wind picks on a man wearing a coat and tries to blow it off him, but the man clings to his coat. The sun shines gently and the man takes it off. If government plans to change the Oslo 2 agreement on Hebron is the wind, the promise to ease the closure is the sun, and the coat is a Palestinian state.

The two issues that have dominated the government's first month in office are: redeployment in Hebron, and the closure of the territories.

Compared with the Peres government, Benjamin Netanyahu appears ideologically tough on Hebron and ideologically soft on the closure. These are two facets of the same policy — to limit the degree of Palestinian self-rule — but they provide different models for negotiations.

The Likud seeks to end the closure and allow tens of thousands of Palestinian workers to return to jobs in Israel because it believes they will settle for economic prosperity over political independence.

Regarding Hebron, there is a natural reluctance by the Likud to close off Israelis in a ghetto-like environment. So it is natural to seek to expand the Jewish enclave which is just 15 percent of the city.

Palestinians will eventually go head to head against Israel in Hebron and insist that the IDF eventually leave what they call "the heart of Hebron" in the context of a final settlement; but few Palestinians can anticipate a future separated from the Israeli economy. There is a virtually unanimous belief that without the money earned by workers in Israel, the Palestinian economy will sink and, with it, the Palestinian Authority. Palestinian prosperity and effective self-rule depends on cooperation with Israel.

After an 8% drop in the gross national product last year, the PA is heading toward a 17% drop this year. Even if 50,000 workers are allowed into Israel, according to the World Bank, the economy will only tread water. Hamas, whose Izzadin Kassarim terrorist attacks precipitated the closure, and whose policy during the intifada was to discourage workers going to Israel, has given in to the general demand. But Izzadin Kassarim leaflets have warned of a resumption of suicide bombings if the closure is not lifted.

Several leading Likud security experts have said that the closure does not serve any security purpose. This could be seen as justifying the claims of Palestinians who call it collective punishment.

If allowing 50,000 Palestinians into Israel is not a security problem, Palestinians might argue, redeploying in Hebron — delayed since March for security reasons — cannot be so dangerous either. Yet the current delay is caused by attempts to expand Israeli control

in Hebron on security grounds. This leads to interesting paradoxes rooted in the common ideological basis of the Likud's Hebron and closure policies.

Likud MK Gideon Ezra, a former deputy chief of the General Security Service, staunchly opposes the closure for economic and humanitarian reasons, and says cooperation between Palestinian and Israeli forces could provide better security. He argues that in Hebron Palestinian police should carry only pistols so that they won't endanger the more heavily armed settlers and the IDF.

A CASE could be made for saying that, since Hebron is more sympathetic to Hamas than any other Palestinian town (and may become even more so under its current special arrangements), the local PA police should be more, not less, heavily armed.

Netanyahu has suggested amendments to Oslo 2 to limit PA control and to establish a continuous IDF presence from Jewish-populated Hebron (known as Zone C* because unarmed Palestinians are allowed in as "inspectors") to Kiryat Arba (Zone C), where 6,000 more Israelis live.

The Oslo 2 map of Hebron shows that the IDF is in exclusive control of roads, not only from Hebron to Kiryat Arba but all the way to Jerusalem, which can now be reached through bypass roads without going through any Zone A (under Palestinian control) and almost no Zone B (under joint Israeli-Palestinian control) areas.

The redeployment of Israeli troops has not isolated Israeli communities in Gaza, Judea or Samaria from their metropolitan heartland. It has, like the division

of Hebron, isolated Palestinian neighborhoods and towns from one another and Gaza from the West Bank. The key to maintaining reasonable calm is to end Palestinians' isolation from one another — for economic, social and humanitarian reasons.

Politically, that will territorially unite the Palestinians. It could also create the basic environment for Jews and Arabs to empathize with one another, which Oslo negotiator Uri Savir considered the most important reason for taking three years over the final talks.

Palestinian Minister of Higher Education Hanan Ashrawi, who responded to Netanyahu's criticism with the comment that the Likud's harsh political face would make it easier for Palestinians to win international support, seemed less sure in a recent interview with the *Palestine Report* in Jerusalem.

"They are going to try to make life easier economically," she said. "This has always been one of the features of the Likud. You give economic prosperity and limited freedoms and do not address issues of sovereignty and statehood. In some ways this absorbs anger, opposition and resistance."

Indeed the question of statehood, stated for Oslo 3, does not have to be addressed right now. But ending the closure while backtracking on agreements already made in Oslo 2 will increase anger as much as simply ending the closure would decrease it.

In such a situation ending the closure will increase security risks, and the Netanyahu government's hope of persuading Palestinians to exchange their goal of political freedom for greater prosperity will never be tested.

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Treasury takes on the might of the IDF

CHIEF of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak is not known as a complainer. But when he sat with the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on Tuesday, he had a lot to get off his chest.

Shahak's beef was with the government and the subject was the plan to cut the military budget. The original figure was for a cut of NIS 1.7 billion, later reduced to NIS 825 million. But the chief of staff was not satisfied with the quick restoration of most of the money. As the MKs sat quietly, Shahak recalled being told of the decision to cut the budget two days before the government approved the move. Nobody asked for his input. "The defense budget has been dropping for several years but now it is significantly lower, not just in real terms," Shahak says. "What has happened in the last few days has caused great damage."

The failure to coordinate with them has alarmed the IDF brass. Shahak told the Knesset committee that dwindling government funding and rising costs have thrown all of the army's plans off course. This includes the highly vaunted five-year program as well as numerous research and development programs.

As for the new cuts, Shahak was clear. "The damage will be both to equipment and training," he said.

Shahak's outspoken frustration, senior IDF sources say, reflects an army backlash against what they assert has been a trend to minimize the importance of the military. The army backlash against the proposed government cuts is composed of two elements: One is the fear that for career military personnel, as well as for those who have retired, the rules of the game have changed. The other is that the IDF will be faced with a renewed wave of terror attacks and tension along Israel's borders.

TO CRITICS in the Finance Ministry, the IDF in 1996 has an agenda that places personnel benefits at the top of its agenda. While few chose the army as a place to make money, the benefits of a military career have become more apparent for veteran officers. Even after retirement, they often end up serving in leading government positions, and try to ensure their benefits. Privately, some senior IDF staffers want a reform of the system. One change would be to distinguish between those who serve in the field and those who sit behind a desk.

"For a long time, the military establishment has been moving in the direction of being a trade union," a senior IDF source, who does not want to be identified, says. "[Former chief of staff] Ehud Barak obtained good conditions for the IDF and nobody wants to give [them] up." Other IDF officers say the budget cuts are the result of years of attempts to turn the IDF into another civil service agency. "The Treasury has long had a mania of telling the army where to cut, particularly in the area of pensions," Maj.-Gen. (res.) Doron Rubin, who served in several positions on the general staff, says. "The Treasury cannot stomach the army receiving early pensions."

Today, officials say, about half of the defense budget is allotted to salaries and benefits. The Defense Ministry operates a huge rehabilitation division that cares for thousands of injured

The army is upset about cuts in the military at a time when the future of the peace process is in doubt, Steve Rodan reports

soldiers. And those that make it through an army career can look forward to a generous retirement fund. A career officer can retire as early as age 40 with a full pension which, in many cases, can ensure that he need not find another job. Before that point, he will be guaranteed bonuses, low-interest loans and as much as a year's vacation.

"In the last few years, the wages of career officers have been linked to that of the public sector," says Brig.-Gen. (res.) Zvi Shorr, a former financial adviser to both the chief of staff and defense minister. "The budgets are growing every year and you can't do anything about it."

The fear of army planners is a repeat of the mid-1980s situation when budget cuts and inflation led to slashing of omeoerous programs as well as the dismissal of hundreds of career officers. The biggest cut was in 1986 when \$600m. was slashed from the defense budget.

In the end, so many career soldiers left the IDF that the army was short of field officers, including those at the level of company and battalion commanders. The result was that the IDF lacked an expensive incentive to attract a new cadre of officers to sign up for a career in the army.

The question is, are we at the optimal numbers," Shorr says. "If you hurt the salaries of career officers they will leave and it will take a long time to replace them."

THE SECOND concern of the army is that a budget cut will send the wrong signal to both the army and the nation that defense is a minor issue. This fear was expressed throughout the governments of Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres.

The Labor-led governments had a ready response: Progress in Middle East negotiations was leading to a significant decrease in tension that allowed for a relaxation of military preparedness.

But the new Likud-led government stresses security over the peace process. Intelligence sources agree that this has raised tension with the Arab world and has given incentive to terrorists who had long tried to plunge the region into turmoil. Suddenly, these sources say, the IDF has to take into account scenarios that it virtually dismissed only a year ago.

"As soon as there are on negotiations with Syria, we see Syria in a completely different way," a senior intelligence source says. "It's a different strategic situation and this translates into us spending more money."

Virtually nobody in the intelligence or military communities is predicting war in the coming months. But they assert that a breakdown in the negotiations will lead to an upsurge in terrorism, an assessment shared by Arab defense sources.

One scenario envisinns increased attacks by the Iranian-backed Hizbullah in southern Lebanon. Shahak says Iran has recently sent the organization a large shipment of weapons, including upgraded Katyusha rockets.

At the same time, Palestinian terrorism is expected to escalate. IDF sources covision border attacks from Lebanon and Jordan by terrorists sponsored by Syria and Iran. Already, the sources say, the new government of Prime Minister Bioyamin Netanyahu is demanding a tougher response to attacks than those of its predecessor. The June ambush in the Jordan Valley in which three soldiers were killed was followed by an Israeli air raid deep in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley near the Syrian border.

And several cabinet ministers say the IDF will obtain support to fight terrorism anywhere, even in areas under the control of the Palestinian Authority.

BUT TO senior IDF officers, these assurances are merely grating as budget cuts erode the army's capability. They say Shahak is upset that the previous government refused to reimburse the IDF for spending NIS 300m. on Operation Grapes of Wrath in April. The army was also forced to cover a budget deficit by Rafael (the Armaments Development Authority) of NIS 315m.

Now the Netanyahu government has added to insult to injury. First, the officers say, the Treasury has refused an IDF request for an additional NIS 500m. to maintain army programs. Instead, the Treasury's cut of NIS 825m. will include a reduction of NIS 150m. from the budget of army activities.

In all, they say, the IDF is short NIS 1b., something Shahak says has resulted in chaos in the military — with R&D programs stalled for funds, supplies running dangerously low and training schedules facing further cuts.

"It's not enough to talk about security," a senior IDF officer says. "You have to pay for it."

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai says he expects a difficult job in deciding where to slash. "Over the next week, we'll go into the IDF activities and see where we can cut," he says. "We can't make decisions in a matter of days. We have to see what are the alternatives and whether there are other sources of funding."

IDF sources expect Mordechai to take the side of the military in the battle of the budget. They say the retired major-general will try to ingratiate himself with a general staff that was shocked by his appointment as defense minister.

But quietly a debate has formed in the IDF over how to deal with the budget cuts. The traditional response of fighting any attempt to cut costs faces competition from a school of thought that wants the IDF to set priorities that would guarantee cost control while maintaining military strength.

The issues these advocates want to discuss include the role of women, who are noncombatants, in the IDF; the treatment of field commanders and those in support roles; a ceiling on the percentage of army salaries as part of the overall defense budget; and the size of the reserves and standing army.

"There is something very hypocritical here," a senior IDF staffer says, "because so far the IDF has not presented any alternative."

Who will suffer most from the cuts?

For children who want a decent education, and elderly citizens in need of health care, the budget looks like bad news, Yochi Dreazen reports

MOST news coverage of the recently-approved NIS 4.9 billion budget cut has focused on its effect on specific segments of society — the large number of career IDF officers who have filed for early retirement, for example.

But who will be hurt most by the cuts?

If you are a married, hypochondriac 86-year-old retired man with three young children, they're really going to sting. "These cuts are going to hurt two groups the most," explained Hebrew University Professor Eliezer Jaffe, an expert on the problems facing the elderly and other low-income groups. "The elderly who don't have large pensions, and parents with young children."

The past four years have been a relatively good time to be old. In 1992, the Knesset passed a beefed-up version of the Veteran Citizens' Law originally approved in 1989. The legislation called for the government to subsidize services commonly used by the elderly, thereby allowing them to receive large discounts on those services.

Thus, for the past four years, the elderly have received discounts of up to 50 percent on their Bezoq phone bills, Egged buses, medicine, and arnona municipal property taxes.

If you were a male over the age of 65, for example, you could've discovered an exciting new tonic, taken four huses to go buy it, called all of your closest friends, and still have saved enough to pay your pared-down municipal tax.

Those days are gone. As part of the budget cuts, NIS 161 million of the NIS 175m. used to fund the subsidies have been eliminated. While the elderly will still receive discounts on bus fares and medication, they will have to pay the full amount on everything else, including arnona.

The second of the two groups hurt most by the new budget



groups is parents of young children. To call raising a child in Israel expensive is an understatement. But many families have been able to scrape by with the help of the government's per-child allowances. "These allowances have been in place since the 1960s, according to Jaffe, when rioting in Haifa called attention to the plight of poor children. Shortly afterwards, the idea of the government paying a per-child allowance was born. "Since then, successive governments have tried to get rid of it," Jaffe said, citing decisions to stop paying the benefits as soon as a child hits 18, and weakening the grant

by not fully indexing it to inflation. "And they're about to succeed," he added.

As part of the budget cuts, families with fewer than four children and a monthly income that is no more than one-and-a-half times the average monthly wage (NIS 4,200 to NIS 4,500) will see those allowances chopped in half. Wealthy families will lose the entire allowance, while larger families of at least four children will not have their benefits touched.

Education stands to suffer as a result of the new budget. Implementation of the longer school day has been postponed until the year 2000, and most of

the funds earmarked for extracurricular activities have been eliminated. In fact, almost 70,000 learning hours will be cut from the 1997-98 school year.

Additionally, the new government is reversing a previous Knesset Education Committee recommendation by forcing parents to pay for their children's health services while at school (approx. NIS 65 per child, per year).

By this point our imaginary retired colonel is probably beginning to pray that he wins the lottery. But with lottery winnings now subject to a 20 percent tax, even winning the jackpot might not be enough.

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ED ANT ENNA!

Separation: Impractical, self-denying and immoral

Those who see an open accommodation, one in which the two entities live, breathe, and are fully involved with each other, are not the prime minister said a few days before his trip to America, commenting on the previous government's policy of *hafrada* or strict separation between Israel and the Palestinian polity that is emerging from the peace process.

I hope he meant it. *Hafrada* is a bad idea with an unjustifiably good reputation, impractical, self-denying and immoral.

It is impractical because, short of building a several-hundred-kilometer-long Berlin Wall, there is no effective way of physically sealing ourselves off from potential terrorists coming from the Palestinian territories.

It is self-denying because it not only means ghettoizing the Palestinians in one part of this country, it means ghettoizing ourselves in another.

And it is immoral because it condemns large numbers of Palestinians to penury by denying them access to an Israeli economy on which we have made

them dependent.

How lightly this immorality rests on us! Remarkably few of the same Israeli consciences that, in the years before Oslo, were stricken by our behavior toward the residents of the territories are now troubled by the strangulation we have imposed on them.

Out of sight, out of mind — and the mind that was anguished by the broken limbs of an Arab child remains unmoved by that child's empty stomach.

I have nothing, against Thais or Romanians. God knows they too have to live. But there is something absurd about importing huge numbers of them to work our fields and build our homes when the Palestinians we have to live with are desperate for jobs.

"To live with yes, but not to be killed by!" It's hard to argue with understandable fear. But the determined terrorist is the last person to be deterred by the roadblock that turns back the honest laborer; and if barred roads sometimes save lives, so do open ones.

One of many reasons we continue to

AGAINST THE GRAIN HILLEL HALKIN

put up with automobiles is that, besides causing deaths, they also prevent them as ambulances and fire engines, and a livelihood and a future to look forward to are vehicles for keeping Palestinians from wanting to blow up Jews.

I sometimes wonder whether, when it comes to the peace process, the most salient line in this country runs not between the left and the right, or between the religious and the secular, but between those who believe that Jews and Arabs, whatever ultimate political settlement they reach between them, are fated to live and work together and those who don't. The first group ranges in composition from Peace-Nowniks to Gush-Emunimniks; so does the second.

Historically, in fact, under a variety of guises, *hafrada* has always been more the approach of the left than of the right. In the early years of the century and during the British Mandate it was fought for

under the name of *avoda ivrit* or "Jewish labor" — that is, the principle of systematically excluding Arabs from the Jewish economy.

Between 1948 and 1966 it took the form of the *memshal tva'i*, the military government that created a Pale of Settlement, far more onerous than that inhabited by Jews in Czarist Russia, for Israel's Arab towns and villages. Under the Rabin-Peres government it involved turning over a similar Pale to the management of the Palestinian Authority while keeping the keys to it in Jewish hands.

There have been sensible rationalizations of these policies. Security. The need for Jewish economic independence. The desire to protect the Palestinians from Jewish greed and exploitation.

But one cannot help suspecting that accompanying these things is something deeper — namely, the wish of many of us

to have as little to do with the Palestinians as possible, because... well, because they are primitive, and because they make us uncomfortable, and because they remind us on a daily basis of something we would rather forget: that we are living not in the Europe that the founding fathers of Zionism came from and that in our hearts we still belong to, but in the Middle East.

I would not call this racism. Certainly, it has nothing to do with skin color, which is no darker among Palestinians than it is among Jews. But it is a widespread if rarely publicly stated sentiment, and one that is nearly as prevalent among supporters of Meretz as it is among supporters of Moledet.

No small part of the political strategy behind the policy of *hafrada* was the hope of creating a pro-Labor electoral alliance that included those who genuinely cared about the Palestinians and their grievances and those who cared only about seeing less of them.

And surely, for every voter on the right who feels strongly about not leav-

ing Hebron or Bethlehem because they are part of the Jewish patrimony, there is another voter who would be only too happy to part with them and their unwashed natives totally.

Yet it is important, I think, not to do so — and not only because this means staying in touch with the Jewish past. It is important because the residents of the West Bank and Gaza are in fact an industrious, highly literate, and ambitious population that badly wants to modernize and democratize and cannot do so without our assistance.

It is only through free contact with Israel that they can hope to raise their economy to the level of ours, and it is only through such contact that they can fight both the autocracy of a corrupt PLO leadership and the religious fanaticism of the Hamas.

It is also only a democratic and economically developing Palestine, helped out of the mire that the rest of the Arab world is stuck in, that can in the long run live in peace with us. Which is why *hafrada* is such a bad idea.

What makes a Jew?

WHAT IS A Jew?

From the way so many of us drive, shove, shout, dress, and "kill" our time, you would hardly know that the hallmark of the Jew is supposed to be the threefold one of compassion, a sense of shame and modesty, and treating our fellows with *hesed*, loving-kindness.

The Talmudic Sages say that it is King David who thus defined the Jew.

David was inspired by the cruel conduct of the people of the town of Gibeon (today's el-Jib) north-east of Jerusalem.

The Gibeonites, like the inhabitants nearby Be'erot (Al-Bireb), Kefira (Har Adar), and Kiryat Ye'arim (Tel-Zet), were Hivites, one of the seven idolatrous peoples of Canaan whom Joshua was pledged to dispossess; the others were the Canaanites, Jebusites, Perizzites, Emorites, Hittites, and Girgashites.

Before attacking, Joshua offered them the options of emigrating, submitting, or fighting. The Girgashites migrated to northern Africa. The Gibeonites submitted. Thirty-one other Canaanite kingdoms went to war and were routed by the Jews.

But the Gibeonites submitted by a subterfuge. When they heard how Joshua had dealt with Jericho and Ai, they came to him at Gilgal disguised as non-Canaanites who had come from a far country to join the Jewish people "because of the renown of God, your god."

So Joshua and the chieftains of the Jewish tribes, not knowing the Gibeonites were one of the Canaanite peoples due to be dispossessed, made a mutual-assistance, non-aggression pact with them.

Three days later the Jews learned of the deceit and some of them set out to punish the Gibeonites. But the chieftains stopped them, reminding them that "we swore an oath to them by God, the god of Israel, so we cannot touch them."

Instead, it was decreed that the Gibeonites would forever be the hewers of wood and drawers of water for the Tabernacle (and later the Temple) and for the community.

When King Adoni-tzedek of Jerusalem learned that the Gibeonites had joined the Jews, he mobilized a coalition of four additional kings to punish the Gibeonites.

The latter called on Joshua to

VIEW FROM NOV MOSHE KOHN

honor his pledge. Because of their deceit he was inclined to ignore their plea, but God said to him: "If you estrange distant ones, you will end up estranging close ones." So he went to the aid of the Gibeonites, routing the coalition's forces.

It was in this battle that the sun stood still for Joshua at Gibeon and the moon in the Vale of Ayalon.

(See Joshua 9-10.)

WE MEET the Gibeonites again during David's reign (II Samuel 21).

God tells David He inflicted the three-year famine on the land because the people had not given a proper burial to Saul and his three sons, whom the Philistines had slain in the Battle of Gilboa, and because Saul had killed seven Gibeonites, violating Joshua's pact.

David arranges for the Gibeonites to get their revenge, and brings the remains of Saul and his sons from Jabesh-Gilead for reinterment in the family tomb.

The Gibeonites reject David's ransom offer and demand, and are given seven of Saul's progeny — two sons and five grandsons — whom they murder, just as Saul had murdered seven Gibeonites.

It was here that David stated his definition of a Jew.

THE GIBEONITES' revenge raises several legal problems. One: A court may not hand down two death sentences in one day, and here seven were simultaneously sentenced to death.

Secondly: The Torah ordains that "children shall not die for the sins of their forebears" (Deuteronomy 24:16).

Three: The bodies of persons hanged for a capital offense are to be buried the same day (Deuteronomy 21:23), whereas the bodies of Saul's progeny were exposed for seven months.

Now the Gibeonites did not merely sign a pact with the Jews; they converted to Judaism out of fear of the Jews and God who was leading them to victory after victory.

And God said He caused Saul to be killed at Gilboa because of his treachery against the Gibeonites. Notwithstanding all this, because of the Gibeonites' bloodthirstiness Jews are forbidden to marry them.

Precisely because of this the Sages chose the vengeance inci-

dent and the violations of Torah laws involved in it to teach us a lesson: If God saw fit so severely to punish the Jews for mistreating those lowdown, lying Gibeonites who converted to Judaism out of an ulterior motive — fear for their skins — then how much more severe will be the punishment for mistreating sincere, altruistic converts.

Seeing God's justice, 150,000 Gentiles converted to Judaism, saying: "There is no god to equal God of the Jews, and there is no nation equal to them."

The 13th-century halachic authority Rashba (Rabbi Shlomo ben Adret) notes that we are told that no converts were accepted during the reigns of David and Solomon. And he explains: Indeed, those 150,000 weren't converted by a proper *beit din* (religious court) of experts, but by boards of laymen, yet they were integrated into the Jewish people.

This, the Sages tell us, is to teach us that the Blessed Holy One is cordial to those who are far, and supports them. Moreover, He even offers *Shalom* to the far before the near, as written: "*Shalom, Shalom* to the far and to the near," says God... (Isaiah 57:19).

SO WE see that the Tanach and the Talmudic Sages, those poets of *midrash*, go very far to emphasize the importance of conduct that reflects honor on God and the Jewish people — *kiddush Hashem* — and avoiding conduct that disgraces God's Name and the Jewish people — *hillul Hashem*.

The Sages go so far as to say that God overlooks idolatry by Jews, but not our acts of *hillul Hashem*.

(See also Bemidbar Rabba 3:4, 5; Sifre, "Beha' alotecha," 10:29; Vayikra Rabba 22:6; Devarim Rabba 3:4, 5:14; Midrash Tehillim 17:1; Smeot Rabba 30:16; Yevamot 79a with Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz's note; Sanhedrin 35a, 47a; Yerushalmi Sanhedrin 6:7; Yerushalmi Kiddushin 4:1; Gitin 46a; Yerushalmi Shevi'it 6:1; Maimonides, "Hilbot Issurei Biah," 12:24, 19:7.)



Revenge is okay when it comes to Midian

"Take revenge for the children of Israel against the Midianites." (Numbers 31:2)

SHABBAT SHALOM SHLOMO RISKIN

This week's portion commands Moses to take revenge. On the other hand, the Torah declares in Leviticus: "Do not take revenge or bear a grudge." (19:18)

Why then does the Torah command revenge against Midian when revenge clearly goes against its own standards of morality?

What compounds this issue is the seeming inequality between the Moabites and the Midianites. After all, both nations were involved in the seduction of the Israelites, both created the licentious atmosphere that led to Israel's worship of Baal Peor.

Anything, the Moabites were in the forefront; it is they who initiated the series of events at the start of Parashat Balak. Balak, king of Moab, contacts the gentle prophet Balaam to curse the Jews. When Balaam is forced to turn his curses into blessings, he suggests the ploy of the Moabite women:

"[Let them] commit harlotry with the daughters of Moab, who invited the nation to the sacrifices of their gods, and the nation feasted and worshipped the false gods, and Israel joined itself to Baal Peor."

Rashi explains that although Moab and Midian may have committed the same acts, revenge was commanded against one and not the other because of their different motivations. Balak, king of Moab, was genuinely afraid lest we conquer him and plunder his wealth. The portion of *Balak* opens with this explicit fear (Num. 22:2-4). Midian wasn't afraid; they were happy to join others for the love of destruction, and did so with enthusiasm and zest.

Midian's stain was therefore dark and deep. But what about the issue of revenge? In addition to the

commandment of revenge against Midian, do we not declare, after mentioning the name of an individual who dies in sanctification of God's name, "May the Lord avenge his blood?"

The Bible exults: "Sing aloud O ye nations, of His people; for He doth avenge the blood of His servants, and doth render vengeance to His adversaries" (Num. 32:43). And the Sages of the Talmud teach: "Revenge is great, even praiseworthy, because it exists between the two names of God" (B.T. *Brachot* 33a).

How do we square all this with the cited prohibition against "taking revenge or bearing a grudge" (Lev. 19:18)?

A deeper understanding of revenge comes to light in a talmudic discussion of the differences between the terms *nekama* and *netira*. If a person asks another to lend him his scythe, and he refuses, when the one who refused turns around and asks the other person to lend him his ax, and he answers: "Since you didn't lend me your scythe yesterday, I'm not going to lend you my axe today," this is an example of *nekama*, revenge, which is prohibited.

Netira, bearing a grudge, goes one step beyond *nekama*. If a person says to his neighbor, "Lend me your ax," and the neighbor refuses, when the one who refused to lend him the axe turns around and asks to borrow a shirt, and the other person agrees, but adds: "Here's the shirt, because I'm not like you," the additional remark is called *netira*, and is also prohibited.

When the Torah gives us the basic commandment against taking revenge in Leviticus (19:18), Rashi cites this entire talmudic passage concerning the ax, scythe and shirt. When we examine

these examples, they involve an issue of borrowing and lending objects of monetary value.

From this perspective, the Torah is teaching us that in the realm of material goods — borrowing and lending to others — an individual dare not base his moral and ethical standards on the behavior of anyone else. I ought not to hold back from lending you an object because you refused when I made the request, and I ought not to lend you an object merely in order to teach you how superior I am to you. Perhaps in this manner we come to teach others our own standards.

However, when it comes to issues that reach to the depths of our lives, when we are confronted by a nation which is out to destroy us, then we dare not be naive and turn the other cheek. We must then play by their rules and destroy them before they have an opportunity to destroy us.

In such an instance, we are commanded to take revenge. Moab was frightened that we would steal their money; they didn't want to lend us their ax, scythe, or shirt; they even refused us a little water when we were wandering in the desert. They wanted us cursed only so that we couldn't destroy them. The Bible therefore commands that we let them live — and we attempt to teach them.

But the Midianites sought our destruction because they wanted to watch us drown. Money or fear were not the issues; cultural genocide was. Hence the Midianite strategy was not merely to weaken us, but rather to assimilate us, to uproot our very foundation through a combination of wine, women and blood on the altars of Baal Peor.

To chart a course of action for ourselves as a people, we have to determine whether the enemy facing us is a Moabite or a Midianite. Moabites did what they did out of fear, and therefore deserve another chance. But if those who face us are hell-bent on our destruction, any sign of pity will be used to destroy us. God forbid.

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North-South vulnerable

North
 ♠ A964
 ♥ -
 ♦ AK98652
 ♣ J3

West East
 ♠ 3 ♠ KQJ10
 ♥ 9852 ♥ 743
 ♦ J107 ♦ Q43
 ♣ A10862 ♣ 974

South (Belladonna)
 ♠ 8752
 ♥ AKQJ106
 ♦ KQ5

South West North East
 1 ♠ pass 1 ♠ pass
 2 ♠ pass 4 ♣ double
 6 ♣ double redouble (all pass)

Opening lead: ♠ 3

ONE of the most exciting events in bridge will take place this coming fall (October 19 - November 3) on the island of Rhodes: the 10th world team olympiad. According to the rules of contest, every country is permitted to enter one team in the open event and one team in the ladies' event.

Organized by the World Bridge Federation, this tournament is run every four years, and each country's bridge organization usually holds some sort of team trials to select its teams. In most countries, these trials are open to all the players of that country, and run as fairly as possible. In some countries, however, the selection process is done by committee; in others, only the rich who can afford the trip to the olympiad get a chance to represent their country; sometimes there is a mixture of democratic process and selection and politics.

In Israel pair trials are held instead of team trials. This year the pair trials consists of six pairs in the open and five pairs in the ladies'; the first and second-placed pairs in each event earn a spot on the team and one other pair is selected by committee. Because of this method and because the qualifying rounds to earn a spot in the trials are held on Shabbat (as are 30 to 50 percent of the deals in the trials), a unique problem exists.

Ironically, Israel may be the only country in the world where a religious bridge-playing Jew is at a disadvantage.

One solution to this problem would be to run a team trials open to all.

Only four out of six members of each team must play at any given time, so religious players could take off on Shabbat without penalty or inconvenience to the nonreligious players. Unfortunately, the Israel Bridge Federation has yet to accept this idea.

There's no doubt that it would be fairer to hold a world championship where everyone, no matter where he resides, has a chance to participate, and this year the federation has decided to run such a contest. A world mixed-team event (each partnership must be a man and woman), staged during the second week of the olympiad, will permit teams comprised of people from different countries. For more information, phone (in France) (33) 15-323-0210.

The record for the most victories in world team play is held by Giorgio Belladonna, of Rome, who died this spring at the age of 73. He won 16 titles playing for Italy, 13 Bermuda Bowls and three team olympiads. Belladonna was seen here in Israel at the 1995 International Bridge Festival.

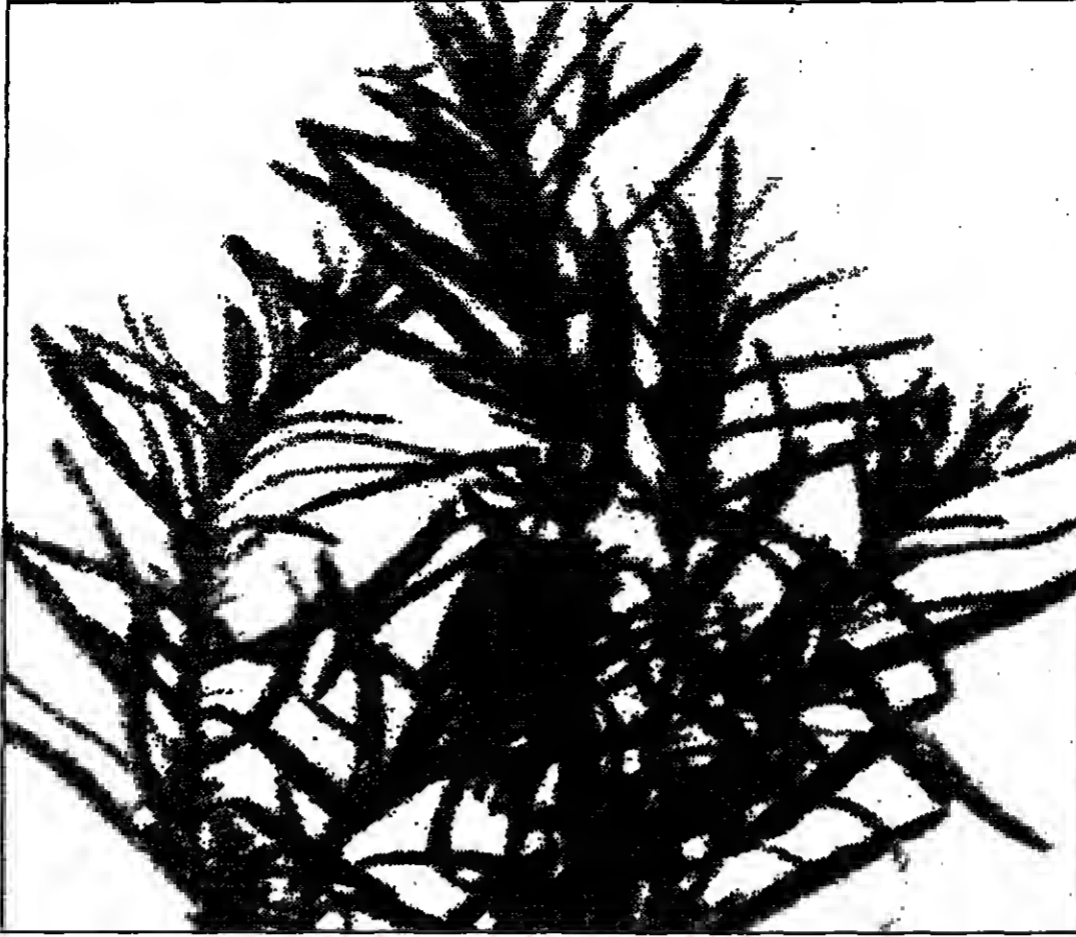
The deal in today's diagram was reported by England's Erwin Schon. It took place in a rubber bridge game where Schon agreed to play the Roman Club system with a new partner he did not recognize at the time. This partner turned out to be Belladonna, sitting South. The one-club opening was artificial and Schon responded one diamond. Belladonna rebid his spades first, in canapé fashion (bid the shorter suit before the longer). When Schon raised to four spades, Belladonna showed his heart suit at the six-level. This was doubted and Schon redoubled, more out of exasperation than for any intellectual reason.

West led his singleton spade (the ace of clubs would have been better) and now Belladonna had a chance to show the stuff that champs are made of.

Before I reveal the solution, it might be fun for the reader to consider how declarer was able to make the slam.

Belladonna won the first trick with the ace of spades in dummy and cashed the ace and king of diamonds, discarding the king and queen of clubs from his hand! A third round of diamonds was played, ruffed in the South hand.

Now four rounds of trumps were drawn and the five of clubs led toward dummy's jack-three doubleton. The best West could do was to take his ace of clubs and lead another one. But dummy's jack won the trick and three high diamonds were led, declarer discarding all his spade losers.



As a medicinal aid lavender is used as an additive to ointments, as a tincture for soothing the nerves and as an emollient for massage.

Sweet smell of lavender

NATURE
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

LA VENDER has been a prized source of sweet scents for a multitude of purposes over the centuries. Roman ladies added it to their powder and sachets to perfume their clothing, boughs were steeped in the bath to perfume the water and pillows were stuffed with it to ensure pleasant dreams.

Today tons of crushed lavender go into the preparation of soaps, bath oils, talcum powder and eau de cologne, and lavender is highly valued by natural healers, from herbalists to homeopaths.

Two kinds of lavender grow in this country. The first and most aromatic is *tournefortii*, or French lavender (*Lavandula stoechas* in Latin, *azuvion dagul* in Hebrew). This lavender, like the others, is a member of the mint family and is easily identified as such by its square stems. It flourishes in the hills of the coastal region and in the Golan Heights.

French lavender grows to a height of 50-70cm, and produces spiky inflorescence with a "flag" of purple blossom from March to May. All parts of the plant are highly aromatic. And

even when it's not in bloom the plant, with its silvery-green leaves, is attractive. The second lavender is *Sinuat*, or sea lavender (*Limnium sinuatum* in Latin, *ad-ad mefuratz* in Hebrew). The term *ad-ad* ("everlasting") is applied to flowers that can be dried and do not wilt. This lavender has a strong aroma too but with a slightly lemony tang to it. It grows on sand among rocks along the Mediterranean coast and is called sea lavender because it is a hardy plant that can withstand constant sea spray.

Its blossoms are far more profuse than are those of the French lavender and its season of full inflorescence is from March to August. Right now this plant is in its glory all along the coast. Although the flowers themselves are discrete and cream colored, the sepals are a bluish-purple.

The Egyptians are said to have cultivated lavender for use in temple rituals of purification, and it has formed a part of the incense used by many cultures. As a medicinal aid it is used as an additive to ointments, as a tincture for soothing the nerves and as an emollient for massage.

Lavender also has a place in folklore and its properties have varied descriptions. Medieval Europeans, especially the English, believed that if a girl slept on a pillow stuffed with lavender, she would see in her dreams the face of the man she was destined to marry. The French, however agreed with the Romans and said that if one slept on a lavender pillow it would ensure sweet sleep and

abolish nightmares. In Germany the most widely held belief was that if an aged person slept on a pillow stuffed with this herb, their dreams would take them back to the happiest days of their youth.

Today one of the commonest uses for lavender, aside from sachets which do have some moth-deterrent qualities, is the making of lavender water. This is a simple process and easily done at home. One needs to collect a half-liter jar or bottle of leaves and/or petals. Crush them lightly with a rolling pin, add about 100cc. of 95 percent alcohol (*saraf* can be purchased for this purpose) and leave the mixture in the sun, tightly covered for a few days, shaking several times a day. Then fill to top with water and leave one more day, filter through a cloth and put in a well-stoppered bottle.

It is a refreshing cologne for summer coolness and a pleasant additive to a summer bath.

To make the prized commodity of lavender oil, one needs a special press. However, for a pleasant scented substitute that makes an excellent bath oil or an emollient for massage, use the above recipe for lavender water but substitute a very light oil such as rapeseed or even prepared baby oil for the water. Keep it well stoppered or it will lose its scent.

The 'Fischerandom' modification

CHESS
NICK KOPALOFF

BOBBY Fischer's radical revision of the rules of chess, in what has been dubbed "Fischerandom Chess," by randomly realigning the pieces on the back row, is in fact the culmination of decades of frustration by the chess aesthetes.

Back in 1978 to his acclaimed work *Chess in the Eighties*, the great David Bronstein noted "the struggle between the rationalist tendency, and the creative and artistic one, has not just recently begun."

It is not denied that chess art develops from mass practice, and that without rational, dull, ordinary and banal games we would not be able to distinguish outstanding creative achievements.

But the erudite Bronstein is quick to point out that the view of chess as a high form of art has begun to make way for something else. Competitive achievements have superseded the creative content of these achievements. This raises numerous questions connected with the interpretation of the spiritual values of our life, he concludes, and with the moral upbringing of the young.

Instead of Fischer modifying the rules of the game - which would undoubtedly throw the chess establishment into a state of unprecedented turmoil - perhaps it would be wiser to adopt an approach suggested by Bronstein.

Noting that there are scant few works devoted to the research into chess as an element of culture Bronstein is confident that such studies would help combat "the spirit of pragmatism, rationalism and banal drudgery generated by the atmosphere of fierce competition."

FORMER USSR youth champion and later former Israel champion Ilya Smirin was a graduate of the Soviet scientific school of chess. But as the following games shows he does not compromise on aesthetics.

Smirin, Ilya Smirin, Vasily 55th USSR Championship Moscow 1988 Caro-Kann Defense

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Ng5 Nd8, in the game Karpov-Kasparov Amsterdam 1986 Karpov preferred 5...Ngf6 6.Bd3 c6 7.Nf3 Bd6 8.0-0.

6.N1B Nb6 7.c3 g6 8.Bc4 Bg7 9.0-0 0-0 10. Re1 N15 11.Ne5 Nd5 12.Ng3 Qc7 13.Bb3 e6! 14.c4 Nf6 15.g4 Ne7 16.Bf4 Qa5 17.Re1! b5 18.Bd2 Qd8 19.Bb4 bxc4 20.Bxc4 a5 21.Ba3! Ba6?

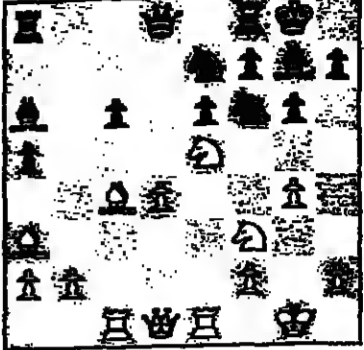


DIAGRAM 1
22.Nxf7! Rxf7 23.Bxe6 Nxd5 24.Ne5 Ra7 25.Rxc6, 25.Nxc6 Qb6 26.Nxa7 Qxa7 27g5! 25...Nf4 26.Rxa6 Rxa6 27.Bxf7+ Kh8 28.Qf3 1-0

AFTER 16 games in the FIDE World Championships being played in Elista in the Kalmyk Republic, only a miracle can save Gata Kamsky from letting his lifelong dream slip away. Defending champion Anatoly Karpov leads 9.5-6.5 and needs a solitary point from the remaining four games to retain his crown.

A feature of many endgames is the struggle of both combatants to seize the opposition. When your opponent must move his king and give up territory you are said to have the opposition. Conversely if your move results in conceding space your partner has the opposition.

Triangulation is a technique through which by wasting a move and burning a tempo its balance is upset and the opposition restored.

In the following position from the game Fanny-Alekshin, White is a pawn up but since Black has the opposition, the win is far from being a formality. By employing a strategy based on the triangulation theme White forces a surprise win against the former World Champion.

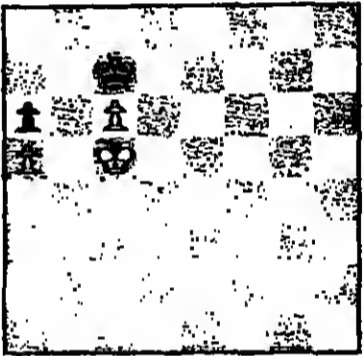


DIAGRAM 2
Solution: 1.Kd5 Ke8 2.Kc4 Kd8 (or 2...Kb8) 3.Kd4! Ke8 4.Kd5! Ke7 5.Kc5!, the starting position has been reached. But as it is now Black's turn to move, he is forced to concede ground, leaving White with a comfortable endgame win. 1-0

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Virginia, girl brought back as a servant (6)
- 5 With a few inches, maintain a grip (6)
- 9 Number blocked gate into field (4-5)
- 10 Pity she was booked! (4)
- 11 Intuitive power this month in court (8)
- 12 One song or many? (6)
- 13 Courage needed to get round it twice initially (4)
- 15 Another's coming out of the water (5,3)
- 18 Drive near (8)
- 19 The girl stood up... (4)
- 21 ...moor a girl! (6)
- 23 Leave warm cover by Irish loch (8)

DOWN

- 2 Lie within the grasp of an outsider (5)
- 3 Periodical onlooker (9)
- 4 Understood about rental adjustment (6)
- 5 Like a winning horse, the captain decided not to bat (5,2,3,5)
- 6 It is unusual to be out of it (8)
- 7 Engineers put meat outside the women's quarters (5)
- 8 He's silent about the suppleness (9)
- 14 Act as agent and put the show on again (9)
- 16 Entertained thoughts that gave shelter (9)
- 17 Well-arranged boy about to get into bed (8)
- 20 I leave sorceress about to be replaced by a miserable person (6)
- 22 Present perhaps sent out east (5)
- 24 Right to go round inside and find part of the body! (5)

SOLUTIONS

Yesterday's Quick Solution
 ACROSS: 1 Poisson, 4 Girls, 8 Onset, 9 Elegant, 10 Leaving, 11 Omen, 12 Rod, 14 Inch, 15 Lira, 16 Tie, 21 Easy, 23 Replete, 26 Lamented, 28 Reign, 27 Wheat, 29 Depend.
 DOWN: 1 Peorly, 2 Instant, 3 Outright, 4 Glee, 5 Realm, 6 Siding, 7 Hedge, 13 Disperse, 16 Renais, 17 Fellow, 19 Erode, 20 Penned, 22 Square, 24 Unit.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Cold seasons (7)
- 5 No longer fresh (5)
- 8 Be eager to accept (3,2)
- 9 Laminated (7)
- 10 Fervently (9)
- 12 Gentleman (3)
- 13 Gallows (6)
- 14 Guy (6)
- 17 Label (3)
- 18 Irish province (9)
- 20 Flexibility (7)
- 21 Vice (5)
- 23 Attempt to fool (3,2)
- 24 Indigenous (7)

DOWN

- 1 Valse (5)
- 2 Go nimbly (3)
- 3 Detonate (7)
- 4 Scatter water (6)
- 5 Bashfully (5)
- 6 Attracting attention (9)
- 7 Somewhat old (7)
- 11 Double meaning (9)
- 13 Deteriorate (2,2,3)
- 15 Flabby (7)
- 16 Class of protein (6)
- 18 Church rule (5)
- 19 Optic (anag) (5)
- 22 Point at (3)

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 NIS 100 in memory of our beloved deceased ones - R. and A.S., Tel Aviv, L. Reis, Sde Warburg. In memory of my grandmother, Erna Falkenstein - Brian Falkenstein, Givatayim. Best wishes to Joseph and Judy Cotlan, on the occasion of their marriage - From Pam, Jeff, Bezalel, Ariella, Elie and Heidi, Kfar Etzion. In honor of Albert Menashe's 85th birthday - With best wishes from the Franco family, Beit Hashilva, in memory of my parents, Frances and Marcus Nusbaum - Judith Nusbaum, J'm.
 NIS 72 in loving memory of my dear parents, Clara Kupsow Schneiderman (27) and Bernard Schneiderman (27), Toronto - R.M., J'm.
 NIS 60 Shoshana Gershowitz, Ramat Gan.
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TV or not TV: This summer, there's no question

Jessica Steinberg provides tips on where to take the kids this summer

SUMMER has officially arrived. Yes, you've been drinking iced coffee and turning on the fans full blast for the past month, but the true barometer of the summer season is the end of school and the start of the long vacation. Kids have been sighted in their parents' offices, lounging beside local pools, or even more likely, sprawled in front of your television set.

At some point during the long hot summer, after numerous lemonade stands (now there's a wholesome activity) and video screenings of *Pocahontas*, you might decide to take a family vacation.

Of course, it's never as simple as buckling the kids in the car, packing a picnic lunch and taking off. Destination is half the battle. To help you, we've gathered some information from local experts about sites to see and places to go in the great wide world of Israel.

Miriam Feinberg Vamosh, editor of *Eretz* magazine and an experienced tour guide, has two daughters of her own, so she knows what it's like to have voices piping up from the back seat, asking if "we're there yet."

She comments that the challenge in planning family vacations is finding something to please everyone. "What? Ten-year-olds don't like looking at antiquities?" she says, chuckling.

Feinberg Vamosh says that if you're thinking about going on the road for a few days, don't even consider the hotel route. Besides the expense, it's usually cramped and uncomfortable with a couple of lively kids hopping around.

Instead, go the bed-and-breakfast route. There are rooms for rent in many moshavim and kibbutzim, especially in tourist areas such as the Hula Valley, western Galilee and Negev. Families in these agricultural communities often



Inner-tube your worries away or head for the desert experience, the only problem is deciding where to go first.

provide lodging to supplement their income, maintaining clean, simple rooms either within their homes or in small bungalows on their property.

One that she recommends is Zohar Bakfar, located in western Galilee in Moshav Netiv Hashayara, where you can rent a two-bedroom house for about \$100 a night, including breakfast. The house is set in a grove of orange trees and the full Israeli breakfast is served on the deck outside. Call (04) 982-2955 for more information.

Another place to stay if you're heading north is Kibbutz Nahsholim, located in the Zichron Ya'acov area, on the Carmel beach. The kibbutz has prefabricated bungalows for about NIS 270 a night, with an additional NIS 70 per child. They can be reached at (06) 399533.

Vamosh also recommends that people rethink the youth-hostel option as there are several new ones with family rooms and swimming pools in the range of about \$75 a night.

One that she particularly recommends down south is the Mitzpe Ramon Youth Hostel, a bargain at \$40 a night with clean, spacious rooms and plenty of sleeping options for a family, (07) 588443.

There's also Drachim, a youth hostel in Dimona, with a dining room, restaurant, swimming pool and sauna. All for about \$32 per adult and \$30 per child.

When making any travel arrangements, Vamosh suggests that you call several weeks in advance, as this is the high season for traveling in Israel. She also strongly recommends setting up in a region for several days, at least three

or four nights, and going on day trips within the area.

Longer trips are appealing, but they're also expensive when accommodations, entrance fees, food and gas are taken into account. Bui Sarah Harpaz, a mother of four living in the Ra'anana area, says that longer trips can be made affordable with a little ingenuity. "Call up friends who live on a moshav or kibbutz and suggest swapping houses for a week," she says.

"Very often they're just as anxious to get out of their surroundings. This way, you avoid paying room and board and your expenses are limited to entrance fees and the occasional ice cream."

IF YOU'VE settled on spending several days in the north, here are a few hands-on activities and sites to consider visit-

ing, recommended by Feinberg Vamosh: Yehiam National Park: A Crusader ruin with a tower to climb, this park also hosts special concerts and activities during the day and evening.

Jordan River Rafting: You can rent rafts or kayaks here which fit up to eight people. There are several routes, ranging from rapid whitewaters to calm, quiet waters more suitable to inexperienced rafters.

The prices are steep, at NIS 155 per person; call for more information at (06) 934622.

Hof Gai: A water park/beach on the western side of the Kinneret, in Tiberias; entrance fees are NIS 40 per person.

Kfar Kedem: A visit to this community in the Tzipori area demonstrates how people lived 2,000 years ago. The activities include bread baking and pressing

olive oil. Call (06) 565511 for more information. This is an expensive venture so your best bet is to go with a group of 30 people, so that the cost is lowered to \$20 per person.

Kibbutz Eilon: The local industry on the kibbutz is a mosaics factory and a tour of the facility includes a mosaic-making activity. Call (04) 996-7172.

If you've decided to head down south or toward the center of the country, look into these options: Genesis Land: This day activity takes you to the desert, near Kfar Adumim, demonstrating how the patriarchs once lived in the Land of Israel. Entrance fees are NIS 12 per person and you can call (02) 997-4477 for more information.

Alpaca Farm: Take a ride on one of the 350 alpacas at this farm located in Mitzpe Ramon. At the visitors' center, your children can also weave alpaca wool and receive a guided tour and explanation about these animals imported from Chile. The entrance fee is NIS 8.50 for kids and NIS 11.50 for adults. Call (07) 658-8047 for more information.

WHILE THESE activities might seem appealing, they do tend to be somewhat expensive, especially for larger families. Zahavi is a non-profit organization that works with city municipalities, looking out for the rights of large families.

The benefits range from educational and tax discounts to travel and touring options. Several cities have Zahavi offices, and each office organizes its own bus-tour day trips around the country. Zahavi offices also offer discount cards to their members for water parks and other activity parks throughout Israel. Call (03) 560-0217 for more information.

One last suggestion: The Ministry of Tourism has offices throughout the country that have up-to-date information on activities and accommodations. Feel free to call them at the following numbers for advice when planning a vacation: Eilat: (07) 637-4233, Carmel: (04) 984-2031, Jezreel Valley: (06) 585803, Western Galilee: (04) 992-2211, Lower Galilee: (06) 769-202, Upper Galilee: (06) 936750, Negev: (07) 655-7314.

Ancient Israel lives on at Tzipori

SEE IT HERE
HAIM SHAPIRO

FOR the casual tourist, Tzipori may be only a fabulous ancient site, with some of the finest mosaics to be seen anywhere. But for a small, select group of visitors, it is becoming a window into the historic roots of Judaism, and how they relate to our time.

Picture this: A group of American-Jewish teenagers are walking along the dirt path. They stop to admire the ancient Roman theater, which was recently excavated and is being restored. Suddenly they are accosted by a pleasant woman in Roman dress.

"I hope you're coming to our theater tonight. We have a wonderful show," she tells them.

But before they can answer her, a young man wearing the garb of the Jews of that period, 200 CE, comes up behind them and sternly warns them not to go to the theater. It is a pagan place, he tells them.

The woman argues with him. No ones takes the gods seriously any more, she says. Besides, lots of Jews visit the theater.

Their argument develops into a clash between Roman culture and Jewish observance, between studying Torah and attending sporting events. Finally, the woman ends with her parting shot.

"Just wait. In 100 years, no one will have heard of the Jews, but the Roman Empire will last forever," she says triumphantly.

Later, in the partially restored Jewish quarter of the city, a Jewish housewife is visited by a Roman tax collector, who asks for a love potion to make his wife more attentive. The Roman wife, meanwhile, visits a Jewish seamstress and asks her to embroider a gown with the likeness of a Roman god.

The Jewish woman is unsure. She says she will have to ask her husband, who will in turn ask the rabbi if she may do so.

Some of the Jewish youngsters and adults of today, who visited the first of a series of programs at Tzipori, may not have known what the Mishna was when they first visited the site, but by the time they left, at least those who were listening were well acquainted with the Mishna and its compiler, Rabbi Yehuda Hanassi. They took part in a discussion in a sumptuous villa, filled with mosaics depicting Roman mythology, as to whether the villa might have belonged to the great rabbi himself.

After their encounter with the third-century inhabitants of the city, the visitors moved on to an adjacent olive grove, where they enjoyed a Roman banquet.

The organizers from the Makom Bagalil Seminar Center at Moshav Sborashim made sure that everything was of the right period. There were no electric lights or telephones, and no



A "biblical" family prepares a broth at Tzipori.

potatoes or tomatoes, vegetables unknown in this part of the world at that time.

The menu did include roast chicken, hard-boiled eggs, olives, raw vegetables, bread and a cake made from rice, lentils and onions. The guests were also given diluted wine, the drink of choice in ancient Rome.

The program in English is a

replica of a similar program in Hebrew, offered at Tzipori during Pessah and Succot, without the dinner. The English-language program and dinner are to be held again on Tuesdays - July 16, 23 and 30 - and Monday, August 5, from 5 p.m., after the regular visiting hours. The price for individuals is \$23. For information and reservations, phone (04) 990-2431.

TWO DAYS ON THE GOLAN

Widely recognized as perhaps Israel's most important security asset, the Golan is for the moment on the back burner. But it won't be there for long. So what better time than now to join Shorashim and The Jerusalem Post for an in-depth, English-speaking two day tour of the area. Led by guides Miriam and Emmanuel Shilo, we'll visit the settlements, examine the security issues and view the terrain, the animals, the water and the beauty.

We'll visit Beit Gaviel on the Kinneret, Kfar Haruv and Mitzpe Shalom, the yeshiva at Hispin, the wineries at Katzin, the Druse village of Ein Kinya, Emek Habacha, Kibbutz Ein Zivan, Gamla, and more. Overnight at Kibbutz Kfar Blum, with a lecture on the Golan's wild animals.

The date: Wednesday/Thursday, August 28 and 29, 1996.

The price: NIS 550. Includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and back, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations, entrance to all sites, half-board accommodation in a double room, lunch and dinner on the first day, breakfast and lunch on the second.

Pick-up and drop-off along the route when possible, by prior arrangement.

Reservations and further information:
SHORASHIM, POB 7588, 14 Rehov Abarbanel, Rehavia, Jerusalem 91074
Tel. 02-666231 (9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.)

Ask for Romit, Tami or Varda.

Vive la France

THE more than 60,000 French citizens living in Israel can get some *fraternité et liberté*, and perhaps some *égalité*, at Club Med this weekend.

Both Israeli resorts (Coral Beach in Eilat and Arziv in the north) of this French-run organization are celebrating Bastille Day (July 14) in style, with a whole weekend of events, including fireworks, fun, games and the best of French cuisine. There will also be a theatrical reenactment of the fall of the Bastille. Festivities start today, with the main celebration tomorrow evening.

Unfortunately the *liberté* comes at a price. A four day/three night stay at Coral Beach costs NIS 1,386 per person inclusive of all food, alcoholic and soft drinks, sports, fun and games. For children aged 6-11 the price is NIS 693, for ages 3-5 it's NIS 417, and for toddlers up to 2, NIS 138. Prices at Arziv are cheaper. It is also possible to stay elsewhere in Eilat and attend the celebrations for a lower price. Tel. (03) 521-2525 for details. Tom Gross

Holiday locally and go to Antalya free

IT used to be that some companies offered you a vacation in Israel if you bought one of their packages abroad. Now Arkia is offering a flight to Antalya this winter if you buy a package of three nights or more in Israel during the summer. The catch is that the flight to Antalya is only one way, and you have to pay for your stay in Antalya and the flight back. Prices for the Antalya package have not been set, but the company says that a four-night excursion should be about \$300 before the discount for the free flight.

Another goody for those vacationing in Israel is an NIS 80 discount voucher for the Cameri Theater to anyone buying a vacation package in Israel through Tzabar.

EL AL IS to run scheduled flights to the Greek islands of Mykonos and Rhodes from mid-July through early October. There will be weekly flights and the round-trip fare is \$299.

A 15-DAY tour of Turkey for

TRAVEL TIPS HAIM SHAPIRO

\$735, including airfare and half board is being offered by Baron Tours. The company is also organizing an eight-day tour for \$589.

YOSSI TOURS is still offering package vacations to Antalya, with \$488 as the starting price for a seven-night stay, including flights and half board.

INDIVIDUAL travelers who want to get around Europe can take advantage of the Hop On Hop Off service of Eurobus, a company with a network of buses in 12 European countries. The company says that the buses go to all major attractions, hotels, hostels, and camping sites. The company, which is affiliated to more than

2,000 hotels of various levels, is represented here by Supercharter. The price for a two-week ticket is \$150 for those 26 and under and \$199 for others. Tickets for longer periods are also available.

ACCORDING TO an agreement between El Al and Finnair, passengers on El Al flights to Helsinki may now take continuing flights on the Finnish carrier for a significant discount.

THE FORMER Yugoslav republic of Macedonia is the destination for a series of package vacations offered by Travel Makers. The price for a seven-night package starts at \$659, including half board.

A SERIES OF maps of various cities, countries, and regions around the world is being sold at stores of the Supersol chain at NIS 14.90.

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A Jerusalem Post Travel Club tour planned by Geographical Tours / Neot Hakikar.

The Baltic States, before the Holocaust home to hundreds of thousands of Jews, is only now, after the demise of the Soviet Union, welcoming visitors. With an English-speaking guide from Geographical Tours, we'll visit Vilna, the "Jerusalem of Lithuania" and tour its ghetto, synagogues, memorials, etc. Then to Kovna (Kaons) and Riga (visiting the old city, garden of statues, etc.) and the Ramboll Forest. Next on the itinerary is Tallin, capital of Estonia on the Gulf of Finland, with its port and old city. From there we'll continue to St. Petersburg (Leningrad), Russia's second largest city. We'll visit its museums, the Czar's Winter Palace, the world-famous Hermitage Museum, the Peter and Paul Fortress, the cruiser Aurora (where the 1917 revolution started), the Piskaryovskoje Cemetery, and stroll along the banks of the Nieva River and the renowned Nievsky Prospect. And that's not all.

We'll stay in first-class or quality tourist hotels, travel in air-conditioned buses, be accompanied by a full-time English-speaking guide from Geographical Tours in Israel, and a local guide where necessary. The price includes all this plus the round-trip flight, half board accommodations (breakfast and evening meal) and admission to all sites. No Shabbat travel. Vegetarian menu available.

THE DATE:
Monday, August 26 - Tuesday, September 2, inclusive.

THE PRICE:
US\$ 1,825 per person in a double room.
US\$ 278 extra for a single room.

For reservations and further information:
The Jerusalem Post Travel Club
Tel. 02-6221679 Fax. 02-236161
Sun.-Thur., 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Ask for Nicole or Tova.

From B-G to Bibi

The tieless, open-necked ideological generation has been replaced by tailored suits and blow-dried performers, Michal Yudelman writes

YES, we have a new generation of Israeli leaders, and Binyamin Netanyahu is the first of them to win power in a personality contest.

The old-timers shake their heads. It was different in the old days. Men were men, and women knew their place. We had real leaders then. Not today's blow-dried television performers.

Everyone, everywhere, has heard that refrain - from Tampa to Timbuktu, Vancouver to Vladivostok, and down the centuries too. In the first century CE, Pliny the Younger, no longer young, bemoaned the passing of the Great Romans and deplored of the effete new generation. But that's almost modern. The first people to bemoan in writing the passing of the great ones were (wouldn't you guess) the Jews. Ah yes, "there were giants in the earth in those days." That's Genesis 6:4, and we've only just met Noah, not even a hint of Moses yet.

In 20 years, we will all be starting to regard the 20th century as we now do the 19th. Where then will be Bibi's leadership revolution of the new generation, new personality, new accent, and new style?

But for today, it is the flavor of the times, and those of us on the middle-aged fault line pause and

wonder what "it" all might mean as the crack between past and future opens under our feet.

On one side is the unknown, on the other are the still-familiar early days of Jewish settlement, the founding, the wars, Labor-Zionism, kibbutzim, and Histadrut. Through it all stalk men and women of legendary stature in baggy pants and dowdy dresses and army uniforms, with Polish and Russian and Yiddish accents.

"Generally speaking, the old-time leadership was filled with a sense of mission, dedication and faith in the rightness of its way," said columnist Arnon Abramovitz. "Today's leaders appear more career and status oriented."

There it is that unmistakable sigh of nostalgia, as Abramovitz readily concedes.

Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres stand firmly in the shadow of the founding fathers, full of that "sense of mission, dedication and faith."

"But again, one must beware of sliding into nostalgia," said Abramovitz. "The younger Peres rebelled against the party establishment and was also accused of ambition and careerism, and of a penchant for the media, like today's leaders - and they used to call him U.P. (United Press)."

But the intellectual quality of the old-school leaders compared

to the moderns was something else, and here, said Abramovitz, there is a real difference.

"Ben-Gurion, Berl Katznelson, Menachem Begin and Moshe Sneh definitely had a finer intellectual quality than," say, Binyamin Netanyahu and Ivet Lieberman. In the Knesset sat people like Yigal Alon, Dr. Yosef Burg and Dr. Yohanan Bader. Today you'll find Yehoshua Matza, Ron Nahman and Avi Yehezkel."

Miri Paz, who was literary editor and a columnist for the defunct Davar newspaper, sees it more starkly as "the founding fathers' generation versus a generation of yuppies and opportunists."

Past leaders were committed ideologues, and each party's platform was born of deadly serious political and ideological debate. "All that was wiped away by Netanyahu, who erased with one sweep the entire ideology of the Revisionist movement."

Nonetheless, it still boiled down to the leader's personality. "Labor also renounced its platform and ideology, toned down the principles of the Labor Movement and replaced them with propaganda based on the leader's personality," said Paz.

"It all began when Rabin was placed ahead of and instead of the party. Everything became personal. Even Israel was identified with Rabin in Labor's election slogans in 1992. This greatly disturbed Peres and many in his camp felt persecuted."

The first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, was puritanical in his views, and marched his kilometers and stood on his head daily, said Paz. He wandered around in short khaki pants and invented the "Mapainik" uniform,



David and Paula Ben-Gurion share a few laughs back at the ranch at Sde Boker.

Geless and open-necked, the exact opposite of today's coiffed and dressed-up leaders.

BEN-GURION devoured books in vast numbers and corresponded with great world leaders, especially with Charles de Gaulle, discussing Aristotle, Plato and the Bible.

According to Paz, Netanyahu is "Israel's first digital prime minister." Ha'aretz columnist Doron Rosenblum once wrote he resembles a state-of-the-art computer from which the "candidate" disc has been removed and the "prime minister" disc has not yet been inserted.

"Of course, television does change everything. Netanyahu is the most media-oriented prime minister. He has learned how to control the medium and manipulate it. He was taught not to utter sentences longer than seven words on television and, if I'm not mistaken, is the only prime minister who studied rhetoric in the United States."

Netanyahu is even grafting the American "First Family" model artificially onto Israeli society, Paz believes.

"Personality-wise, he is the most impenetrable and unknown leader. Nobody knows anything about him even though he was born here. Netanyahu is the first

prime minister born in Israel, raised in an educated, established family, as compared to previous premiers, all of whom came from workers' homes, where frugality and puritanism were part of the Zionist-socialist ethos.

"And yet, in many ways, Israeli-born Netanyahu is not Israeli at all. Not in the way that Rabin epitomized Israel's spirit and history. In Netanyahu's victory speech he quoted Kennedy extensively, and some Jewish religious sources. Nothing Israeli. What a contrast to Rabin, who quoted Israeli poets born in independence days."

Marlin Levin, a former correspondent for Time-Life and former editor and senior correspondent of The Palestine Post, knew most of the founding leaders personally and professionally.

"The times are different and times bring their own leaders," he said. "I once asked B-G how he would rate himself. He replied: first I am a Jew, second an Israeli, and third I am a Mapainik. He always thought in terms of the Jewish people, and used to say, 'I'm not sure we can stand on our own feet as a state unless eight million people come to settle here.'"

"At the same time he was practical, as he proved by his aptitude after the Six Day War. I think he was ready to give back everything

ence and technology, computers. Levin said B-G did not like press conferences. "I don't think they had any in those days. I once asked for an interview for Life magazine, and he said, 'I'll want to say something I'll write myself and send it to the paper.' And he did. He wrote an article for Life."

Media and political campaign adviser Yairiv Ben-Eliezer says now everything is in terms of exposure and that means television. "In those days people were distant from the public and were perceived as having a superhuman aura, but only because we didn't know them closely and we didn't see their flaws and foibles. Today they're exposed, for better and worse. And lo, they are discovered to be human and not giants."

Today's statesmen, says Ben-Eliezer, are television leaders. They are not elected for their message or their depth but because they adapted better to the television era.

"In the old days, you had great speakers. Today, debates in town squares wouldn't work. Squares are passé, as are speeches. Television is an anti-speech medium. It's a flat sound bite. The how is more important than the what. Netanyahu doesn't give a speech. He says something short, stares into the camera, lifts an eye brow and makes the right hand gestures."

A tale of two cuffs



In a rare photo, Ben-Gurion puts on the Ritz and dusts off the dress shirt and cufflinks. His office library makes for a familiar backdrop. Netanyahu seems more at home with microgrammed cuffs and an ever-present microphone nearby.

The kitchen cabinet

PAULA Ben-Gurion, Aliza Begin and Zippora Sharett stayed in the background. Not only was there nothing wrong with being a housewife and dedicating your life to looking after your husband, nothing else was expected.

"You never saw their pictures in the papers," said Marlin Levin. "This was true of Sonia Peres too, quite unlike Leah Rabin or Sara Netanyahu. I can think only of Leah and Sara as women who put themselves forward, seeking a public posture."

"You could often see Paula go to the grocery stores. Zippora was very friendly, you could walk up to her any time. Aliza too was somebody you could be familiar with: They certainly weren't stand-offish. And they were devoted to their husbands. Paula used to sit behind the curtain with a glass of milk for B-G and hand it to him when he finished speaking. She gave her whole life to him. So did Aliza Begin."

But the old-time wives were not beyond a little scandal now and then, recalled Miri Paz. There was the incident at the formal dinner Ben-Gurion held for UN secretary-general Dag Hammarskjold. Paula said to him: "Say, why don't you get married and leave us alone already. Stop pestering us. We're a little state."

Paula was known as a colorful character who understood nothing of politics, or pretended so. But B-G completely lacked a sense of humor. Once

Paula told him a joke about Menachem Begin who, one election day, said to his wife: "Tonight you will sleep with the prime minister." Everyone laughed, except a horrified Ben-Gurion. "Feb!" he snapped. "I don't believe Begin said such a thing. He has his faults, but he is a gentleman."

Paz remembered that Levi Eshkol triggered off a great scandal and waves of hot gossip when, as a widower, he married Miriam, a 34-year-old single woman 30 years his junior. But in those days the gossip column genre was still in discreet diapers.

THE NETANYAHUS are not the first to assume royal airs, said Paz. Leah Rabin already tried to ape Jacqueline Kennedy during Rabin's first term as prime minister in 1974.

Both Leah and Sara have demonstrated a talent to embarrass their husbands and do them political damage, although Leah's caprices pale into child-like innocence beside those of her younger sister.

Still, in all fairness to Sara, it should be noted that "he started it." In the "sizzling cassette" affair, Bibi set a world precedent. Never before had an aspiring national leader run to a television studio on his own initiative to confess all to an astonished public who hadn't even asked.

"Netanyahu's main achievement is raising intimate gossip in Israel to the level of news," said Paz. "Don't knock it."



A dapper Yitzhak Rabin and his Jackie-O styled wife, Leah, had already started the trend away from down-to-earth fashions and lifestyles for Israeli prime ministers and their families, when they were captured in this 1974 photo.



'Netanyahu is grafting the American "First Family" model artificially onto Israeli society.'

FAMED Yiddish writer and storyteller Yossel Birstein has been approached by Japanese Yiddish student Mari Nomura-Nakazawa with a request for books for a Yiddish library in the Land of the Rising Sun. Nomura-Nakazawa's teacher is due to arrive from Japan in a few weeks to discuss the matter further.

Meanwhile Birstein is due to travel to China at the end of next month. He was asked by the Writers' Union and the Foreign Ministry to attend an international book fair in Beijing to lecture on Yiddish literature and to narrate a few stories of his own. "How does Yiddish get to these places?" he marvels. Then answering his own question, he says: "It's like a germ. It can affect your finger, your toe, your nasal passages. It's without a country, without borders, without universities. It just spreads everywhere..."

JERUSALEM POST publisher Yehoda Levy, along with director of The Jerusalem Post Funds Beverlee Black, this week called on world chairman of the Jewish National Fund Moshe Rivlin to present him with a check for NIS 120,000 toward the costs of replacing the trees destroyed in last year's forest fire in the Jerusalem Corridor. A moshavnik and former JNF emissary in Canada, Levy has a particular affinity for the cause, and was in fact the initiator

of the Post's forest restoration appeal.

CHANNEL 1'S Nitzan Chen and Channel 2's Mickey Haimovitch would have dearly liked to interview Sara Netanyahu in her home. But the premier's wife, insisted on meeting them at the Laromne Hotel, Jerusalem. The interviews were conducted separately, with the PM's media adviser Shai Bazak and Mrs PM's media adviser Rami Sadan hovering off-camera in the background. Both interviewers asked questions about recent controversies which have shown the prime minister's wife in a negative light. As was expected, she denied all allegations, admitting only to her keenness for cleanliness. Chen was willing to give her the benefit of the doubt, but Haimovitch was far from convinced.

THOSE WHO refer to Sara Netanyahu as "the first lady" are mistaken. Not only is there no such position in Israel, but if there were, the title would belong to Reuma Weizman, and if she and the president were out of the country, it would go temporarily to Ludmilla Tichon since the Knesset Speaker becomes acting president in the absence of the president.

HIS DAUGHTER Noa, who has been living in New York, did not wait to bask in the limelight of

He's got a yen for Yiddish

GRAPEVINE GREER FAY CASHMAN

On more guest lists than almost any other MK, Ben-Elissar and his wife Nitza will be missed on the social circuit, but will no doubt provide a convenient excuse for

many Israelis traveling to the US to make a stop in Washington.

ONE OF Ben-Elissar's predecessors, Simcha Diniz, who served in Washington when Menachem Begin made his first official visit in the capacity of prime minister, was asked about his experiences there

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by Israel Television's Emmanuel Halperin. Halperin's interest was more than casual. It just so happens that Menachem Begin was his uncle.

UNLESS FOREIGN Minister David Levy decides to hock his path, it seems fairly certain that former Prisoner of Zion and 18-year refusenik Yuli Kosharovsky is destined for sweet revenge as Israel's ambassador to Moscow, replacing Prof. Aliza Shenhar when her term expires in November.

Although Kosharovsky was 45th on the Likud Knesset list, it is unlikely that Yisrael Ba'alya leader Natam

Sharovsky will raise any objections to his appointment. The two worked together as aliya activists in the old country, and Kosharovsky is one of Sharansky's deputies in the Soviet Jewry Zionist Forum. One of the things that Kosharovsky has going for him is that he and Russian President Boris Yeltsin have the same Polytechnic Institute alma mater. It won't be Kosharovsky's first experience, since his arrival here seven years ago, as an Israeli envoy in the former USSR. He was sent there as the Jewish Agency's No. 2 man by then-Jewish Agency chairman Simcha Diniz.

Jardoni / Kohiner

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Jerusalem Post

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Friday, July 12, 1996

Capital aid programs are unnecessary, says E. Fishman

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE government's capital investment aid programs are unnecessary in light of the economy's low unemployment rate, businessman Eliezer Fishman said yesterday.

Fishman was reacting to industrialists' claims that the government's decision to cut programs from 34 percent to 20% would cause many companies to stop investing here.

According to Fishman, government investment aid is only justified when the government faces unemployment problems, adding that government should only encourage investments in towns which suffer from unemployment.

Earlier this week, Yehoshua Abramovich, director of the Manufacturers Association's economics division, told the Knesset Economics Committee that several firms that have been considering local investments have called this week to say they would take Israel off their list of options if the grants were reduced.

"Today, there is virtually no unemployment and for this reason

there is no need for investment aid. What is the point in encouraging foreign investors to invest here if there are not enough workers? This can only lead to a rise in the cost of labor since there will be an inadequate number of workers to meet demand," said Fishman.

Fishman owns several industrial firms with total sales of more than NIS 1 billion a year, including the Miloutai Frozen Fruits and Vegetables factory in Ma'alot, a development zone A area. The businessman is also one of the owners of the Globes financial daily and plans to contend in the government's tender to purchase a major stake of Bank Hapoalim.

Fishman said the government's investment aid programs in certain areas of the country (development zone A areas) are not a good enough reason to encourage him to invest in those areas as opposed to other locations. But, if he is legally entitled to receive financial assistance, the businessman claims he will take advantage of the right.

Diplomat: PM's aid comments preempted US action

Frenkel: Military assistance likely to be untouched

DAVID HARRIS

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's pronouncement that there should be a reduction in US aid to Israel, preempted such a move being initiated by Congress, a former Israeli diplomat to the US said yesterday.

In recent months "more and more senior American voices have been saying the aid we send to Israel is becoming too great a percentage of our overall aid program," he said.

Both Likud politicians and civil servants see Netanyahu's proposal, to receive less than the current \$1.2 billion in civilian aid, as a good public relations move.

"It is important to note, there is no plan whatsoever to cut the military assistance, it's very likely that will increase," Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, who accompanied Netanyahu, told reporters. "With regard to the economy, the only thing the prime minister said was that in the next four years he'd like to see economic changes which allow for long-term, graduated reduction in the economic help."

"Two distinct messages came out of Netanyahu's speech," according to Knesset Finance Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz. "The hope that aid will be reduced, and the fact that we are not doing it today." It was a good move to make the speech before he went to New York to meet American businessmen, added Ravitz.

"It's good to tell them we're going into a new economic situation, that we don't need help like a developing country," he said.

MK Yossi Beilin (Labor), while supporting the general policy, said that "Netanyahu was very vague; this should be done immediately."

Beilin said the annual return of debt must be attached to the civilian aid. "Otherwise, in the near future we'll get more than we return and that'll be a mistake," he added. By Beilin's reckoning the aid should be zero by 2004.

MK Meir Sheerit (Likud) said he supports the total end of US aid "with all my heart." As far back as 1988, according to Sheerit, he called for Israel's financial independence from the US, proposing a reduction of 10 percent every year. Sheerit also pointed out that total US aid between 1948 and the outbreak of the Six-Day War, only amounted to \$3 billion.

Support for Netanyahu's speech also came from Likud faction head Michael Eitan. "It's better to live according to our pockets than to depend on our ability to beg," he said, calling on the entire nation to tighten its belt. "The sooner we do this, the healthier for the state."

"This will give us economic independence, but now is not the time," said Silvan Shalom, the head of the Likud faction on the Knesset Finance Committee.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Plans for Ramle electric plant move forward: The board of directors of the Israel Electric Company agreed yesterday to allow the company to complete its preparations for the building of a new electricity production plant adjoining Ramle. The 500-dunam site would be linked to the proposed natural gas pipeline from Egypt.

The initial plan is to purchase four industrial gas turbines from Siemens at a cost of DM 220 million. The combined output would reach 580 megawatts. The eventual aim is for the site to produce 2,000 megawatts, with the purchase of further turbines. The National Planning and Construction Council has already given its consent for the plant to be built on the site. *David Harris*

Team to consider future of foreign workers: A team of experts was set up this week to look into the role of foreign workers, in light of the continuing closure on the territories. Staff from the Police, Finance, Interior and Labor and Social Affairs ministries will examine the future of the 210,000 foreign workers here. If the closure continues, there will be a need to find suitable housing for the workers. There is also concern about the use of false documents and possible social problems. *David Harris*

Israeli pharmaceutical basket among the lowest: The average basket of pharmaceutical products is cheaper in Israel than most Western countries, according to a survey published this week by the Manufacturers Association. The research, which compared Israel to 18 Western European states and the US, found medications to be 92 percent more expensive in Holland. The association says the annual per capita spending on such products in Israel (\$94) is understood to be one of the lowest in the world; only people in Ireland and Greece spend less, the report suggests. *David Harris*

Banks close to accord on funding IAI-Turkey deal

STEVE RODAN

A consortium of banks is close to wrapping up details of a loan to finance the Israeli upgrading of 54 F-4 Phantom fighter-jets for the Turkish air force, industry sources said yesterday.

The sources reported that the banking consortium, coordinated by Bank Leumi's Ehud Shapira, is in the advanced stages of negotiations with Israel Aircraft Industries to finance the F-4 upgrade contract, set at \$650 million. The Turks have asked for financial aid, saying they cannot pay for the upgrade for at least two years.

In February, the Knesset Finance Committee approved the granting of \$410 million in loan guarantees to IAI to launch the upgrade project. But despite the government guarantees, Israeli banks balked at lending IAI more money.

Industry sources said the banks first wanted a commitment from IAI on a payment schedule of millions of dollars the state company already owes. Banking executives also demanded to know the

extent of IAI's implementation of its recovery program.

Under the agreement approved by the Knesset, the banks' total risk exposure regarding the F-4 upgrade contract would amount to at least \$250 million.

Banking sources said yesterday that their talks with IAI are proceeding smoothly and a debt repayment schedule could be completed within the next few days.

At that point, the sources said, the banks would negotiate with the Turkish government over how Ankara would pay IAI for the upgrade contract. "We're expecting the negotiations to be resolved relatively quickly," a source said.

The banking consortium has been under government pressure to wrap up the details that would allow for IAI to begin the upgrade contract. Officials said the F-4 deal is vital for Turkish-Israeli relations in the wake of the new Islamic-led government in Ankara, whose prime minister has expressed opposition to military ties with Jerusalem.

Swedish economy in danger of contraction after low CPIs

STOCKHOLM (Reuters) - The Swedish economy is on the verge of contracting after a sharp fall in June consumer prices brought the inflation rate below 1 percent, but analysts said yesterday that growth should keep deflation at bay.

"This figure is more backward looking than forward looking," Merrill Lynch analyst Richard Woodworth said.

"A lot of the components in the June figure - like the cut in car excise duty and lower petrol prices - were one-offs, and we have a lot of wage inflation to come," he said.

Statistics Sweden reported a fall of 0.4 percent in the June consumer price index (CPI), bringing the headline inflation rate down to just 0.8%.

The June figure was well below the 0.2% projected by a Reuters poll of market analysts, who put the annualized inflation rate at 0.9%.

More unexpectedly, net prices - consumer prices minus the net of

indirect taxes and price subsidies - have actually fallen by 0.3% since June 1995, indicating that the main source of inflation over the period was higher taxes.

Although this implies that the economy is now in a state of deflation, analysts said it was unlikely to remain so even though a rapid turnaround should not be expected.

"We're still seeing growth in the economy. I'm actually looking for the economy to recover fairly strongly next year. I put GDP growth at 2.2% in 1997," James McKay of PaineWebber in London said.

The most recent government figures put growth in gross domestic product at only 1.4%, but most economists expect the growth to pick up toward the end of this year.

This in itself would help rescue the economy from deflation, and the fact that this year's wage round saw pay hikes of up to 5% should play its part.

Paz owner did not have to inform court of extra payment

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Australian-based Liberman family, the owner of Paz, had no obligation to inform the court of the payment made to the Poles for the purchase of shares in Paz, said Zedek Bino, the Liberman family's representative in Israel, yesterday.

Bino was reacting to a Globes investigation which revealed that the Liberman Group paid the Polish Group, made up of businessmen Boguslaw Bagnik and Andrzej Goncharowski, an additional payment of \$16 million, above the \$80m. reported to Tel

Aviv District Court, for their shares in Paz in January 1994.

The payment was reported in the framework of the Liberman Group's repurchase of the Polish Group's 50 percent share in Paz, a transaction which increased the Libermans' share in the company to 100%.

The transaction was authorized with the validity of a court verdict. According to the agreement, the Liberman family deposited \$80m., the sum the Poles initially

paid for the shares, in trust for Art-B of Poland, the Polish Group's principal creditor and also the company owned and managed by the Poles. The sum was deposited with two trustees attorney Eliehu Miron, the representative of the liquidator of Art-B, and attorney Dan Avi-Yizhak, who represented the Poles in the Paz case until Art-B's liquidator and the Poles reach a compromise.

According to the investigation, the actual value of the transaction was \$96m., with the additional \$16m. been secretly transferred into the Poles private bank accounts.

Globes claims the actual value of the transaction was \$96m. was only recently highlighted, after the Liberman family reported revenues from the sale of one-third of Paz to the Renaissance Fund to the income tax authorities, based on purchasing the shares for \$96m. Bot, Globes alleges, in a

document to the court at the beginning of this year, Bino claimed the value of the transaction was \$80m. The document was filed as part of a request that the court approve a compromise agreement between Art-B's receiver and Bagnik and Goncharowski.

In reaction Bino said: "Following the cancellation of the sale agreement of Altin shares (the owner of Paz), the Liberman family made all the necessary payments as requested in the framework of the agreement, the arbitrage ruling, and the court's instructions, and at the same time gave a full report to the tax authorities, as required."

According to Bino, the Globes report is connected to Miron's \$5m. suit against the Liberman family, which was filed in April.

Miron could not be reached for comment. It is reported that Miron plans to take measures to retrieve the extra \$16m., if the findings of the Globes investigation are found to be true.

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ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (20.6.96)

Currency (deposit for):	-3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.825	4.875	5.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.000	4.000	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.575	1.875	2.375
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	1.000	1.000	1.500
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (11.7.96)

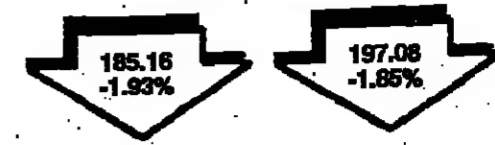
CURRENCY BASKET	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep.
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	3.9321	3.9391	—	—	3.9349
U.S. dollar	3.1825	3.2136	3.10	3.26	3.1820
German mark	2.0728	2.1064	2.03	2.14	2.0817
Pound sterling	4.9125	4.9918	4.82	5.07	4.9589
French franc	0.8125	0.8224	0.80	0.84	0.8182
Japanese yen (100)	2.8548	2.9109	2.81	2.96	2.8920
Dutch florin	1.8475	1.8773	1.81	1.91	1.8841
Swiss franc	2.5074	2.5479	2.46	2.59	2.5303
Swedish krona	0.4737	0.4814	0.46	0.49	0.4778
Norwegian krone	0.4854	0.4933	0.47	0.51	0.4887
Danish krone	0.3382	0.3468	0.32	0.36	0.3430
Finnish mark	0.8786	0.8956	0.86	0.90	0.8846
Canadian dollar	2.3119	2.3492	2.27	2.39	2.3326
Australian dollar	2.5232	2.5639	2.47	2.60	2.5480
S. African rand	0.7287	0.7406	0.68	0.75	0.7347
Belgian franc (10)	1.0039	1.0222	0.98	1.04	1.0181
Austrian schilling (10)	2.9456	2.9932	2.89	3.04	2.9719
Italian lira (1000)	2.0899	2.0932	2.02	2.13	2.0783
Jordanian dinar	4.4000	4.7000	4.40	4.70	4.5007
Egyptian pound	0.9000	0.9800	0.90	0.98	1.0175
ECU	3.9267	3.9801	—	—	3.9624
Irish punt	5.0379	5.1182	4.95	5.20	5.0945
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4847	2.5045	2.42	2.54	2.4864

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

TASE drops for 7th straight day

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



Two-Sided index

Maof index

TASE share indexes dropped for a seventh day yesterday, with the Maof index touching a three-month low...

Losses in the Maof were led by real estate company Africa Israel Investments and gasoline distributor Delek, which dropped 4.2% and 4% respectively...

The Maof last dropped under 200 on April 15, closing at 198.65. The index then ran up

13% until May 28, the day before the elections. Since then, the Maof has dropped 12%.

For the past five trading days, the Maof has lost 5.4% and the Mishanin 5.8%.

The most active stock on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange was Poshim Investments, an affiliate of Bank Hapoalim, down 1% on NIS 5.8 million of shares traded.

Across the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, about NIS 84.7m. of shares traded, 31% more than this month's average of NIS 64.5m.

The Mishanin Index fell 1.93% to 185.16, while the Maof Index sank 1.85% to 197.08.

Losses in the Maof were led by real estate company Africa Israel Investments and gasoline distributor Delek, which dropped 4.2% and 4% respectively.

Discount Investments, an affiliate of Discount Makhteshim each dropped 3%, while investment company IDB Holdings Ltd., Supercol and high-technology holding company Ciel Industries each lost 2.8%.

The Maof last dropped under 200 on April 15, closing at 198.65. The index then ran up

Wall Street slide sends world markets down

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - Here is how major stock markets outside the United States ended yesterday.

LONDON - Plummeting stocks on Wall Street pulled British equities lower as Hewlett-Packard warned of slowing growth, hammering technology stocks the day after the sector was hit by weak earnings from Motorola.

PARIS - The sharp drop in Wall Street trading also dragged French shares to a lower close.

TOKYO - Stocks ended higher for the first time in six trading days, but volume was extremely thin due to a lack of fresh incentives.

HONG KONG - Stocks ended marginally higher, with buying interest limited by continued concerns about the strength of the US economy and interest rates.

PARIS - The sharp drop in Wall Street trading also dragged French shares to a lower close.

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks tumbled yesterday as investor jitters about weak corporate profits were aggravated by dire outlooks from leading companies in the computer and health care industries.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost about 83 points, having recovered from a 133-point dive that dragged the blue-chip barometer below 5,500 for the first time since early May.

The technology-laden Nasdaq market flirted with its worst day since the stock market crash of October 1987.

Other broad market measures fell sharply too, but improved from the day's losses as investors searched for bargains.

"A great deal of damage has been done, and it is going to take a great period of time to rebuild," said Ralph Bloch, chief market analyst at Raymond, James & Associates in St. Petersburg, Florida.

"For the first time since December 1994, when this run really got going, people are showing bad losses in their holdings."

Among NYSE issues, 529 rose, 2,021 fell, and 643 were unchanged.

FRANKFURT

Table with columns: MARK, STERLING, YEN, SP, FF

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Main table with columns: Name, Price, % Change, Volume, etc. Includes sections for Commercial, Industrial, Mortgage Banks & Finance, Financial Institutions, Insurance, Trade & Services, Oil Exploration, and PARALLEL LIST.

Key Representative Rates: US dollar...NIS 3.1920 +0.60%, Sterling...NIS 4.9589 +0.81%, Mark...NIS 2.0917 +0.52%

NYSE STOCK MARKET, New York market indexes, Other stock market indexes, Israel stocks in NY, NYSE / AMEX, NASDAQ / over-the-counter, International Money Markets, Dollar crossrates (US), Labor rates, Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

SOURCE: ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Table with columns: Name, Price, % Change, Volume, etc. Includes sections for NEW YORK, LONDON, PARIS, FRANKFURT, and various international companies like Alcoa, Boeing, and Ford.

INTERNATIONAL MONEY MARKETS

Table with columns: Name, Price, % Change, Volume, etc. Includes Dollar crossrates (US) and Labor rates.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds 34 Ben Yehuda St. Jerusalem. Tel. 02-244963, 03-5788826 Fax. 02-244876

INFLATION AND METALS

Table with columns: Name, Price, % Change, Volume, etc. Includes US commodities, London commodities, Spot market metals (US), New York metal futures, and London metal futures.



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 KING OF KINGS ASSEMBLY YMCA Auditorium, 26 King David St., Sunday 4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tel. 02-610-017.
 JERUSALEM
 HEBREW UNION COLLEGE, 13 King David St. Shabbat morning service, 9:30 a.m.

MORESHET YISRAEL - Conservative 4 Agron, Dr. Avraham Feder, Rabbi. Friday Morning 6:30 p.m., Shabbat 8:30 a.m., Mincha 5:50 p.m. Daily Minyan 7:00 a.m.
 TEL AVIV-CHRISTIAN
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ART GUIDE

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 OLD YESHUV COURT MUSEUM, Life in the Jewish community in the Old city, mid-19th century - World War II. 6 Or Haim, Jewish Quarter, Old City. Sun-Thur. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
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ART GUIDE

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 Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Clalit, Straus A, 3 Avignon, 706650; Balsam, Salah e-Din, 272315; Shualat, Shuatar Road, 810108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 262058; Tel Aviv: Bloch, 32 Bloch, 622-6425; Alva, 165 Dizengoff, 622-4717; Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Shualat, A. Yaffe, Ra'anana, 907911; Netanya: Hanassa, 36 Wazmann, 626369; Krayot area: Harman, 4 Simat Modifin, Kiryat Motzkin, 870-7770; Haifa: Kiryat Elezer, 6 Mayahot Sq., 851-1707; Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 8 Maslot (cm. Sdotot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 558472, 558407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight.
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 Friday, July 12
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 Saturday, July 13
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 Wizo hotlines for battered women 02-6514111, 03-5611333 (also in Russian), 07-376310, 08-550505 (also in Aramaic), Kupat Holim Information Center 177-022-1906, Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., 08-5633726.
 * National Helpline: "National Helpline" Center for Adolescents, 6 Chofe St., Kiryat Hayovel, Jim. Advice by phone 02-633333.
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Dayan to reconsider administrative detentions

OC Central Command Uzi Dayan promised yesterday to reconsider the entire issue of administrative orders against Jews, people close to Rabbi Yitzhak Ginsburgh of the Od Yosef Hai Yeshiva in Nablus reported.

Dayan reportedly made the promise at a meeting with Ginsburgh yesterday in the latter's Kfar Habad home. The meeting was at Dayan's request.

According to Eli Rosenfeld, the director of Od Yosef Hai, much of the meeting was devoted to the 70 administrative orders which the army has issued to restrict the movements of right-wing Jewish activists. Ginsburgh himself is currently forbidden to enter Judea and Samaria, where he works.

Rosenfeld said the meeting lasted two and a half hours, and was "a very good and very warm meeting." At the end of it, he said, Dayan promised Ginsburgh that he would re-examine the whole issue of the use of administrative orders against Jews. Ginsburgh's secretary, David Shirel, also reported this.

The IDF spokesman's office refused to either confirm or deny the promise, however. The meeting was a private one, the spokesman said, and therefore Dayan "does not intend to detail the content of the conversation."

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- The property may be viewed by arrangement with the offices of Y. Weinstein Ltd., Tel. 02-666943.
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- The undersigned is not obligated to accept the highest or any offer. He is entitled to conduct negotiations separately with every bidder, and if he so wishes, to auction the property in the presence of the bidders at a time to be determined by the undersigned.
- The sale is subject to the approval of the receiver, Attorney Shalom Cohen of Jerusalem, and of the head of the execution office.
- The purchaser will be obliged to pay the agent's commission (2%) and VAT, in addition to the price of the property.

Yehuda Weinstein
Real Estate

Castro urges loyalty from Olympians

HAVANA (Reuters) - Furious over the defections of a star baseball player and two boxers in the last two weeks, President Fidel Castro appealed on Wednesday to Cuba's Olympic delegation for loyalty and patriotism at the Atlanta Games.

Castro poured scorn on the athletes who "betrayed" their country and said this month's Olympic Games were particularly difficult because they were taking place in the US where there would be pressure on Cubans to desert the side.

"They will do everything possible to deprive us of our best athletes, and they will do everything possible to deprive us of medals," he told an evening ceremony to hand the Cuban flag to the 220 Cuban athletes, trainers and officials who will travel to Atlanta for the Games starting on July 19.

Castro concentrated on patriotism and betrayal rather than medal hopes. "More than gold or silver or bronze medals, what interests us is the moral medals that our athletes can win," he said. "More than muscles in the body, what was needed were 'muscles of the soul'," added Castro.

"We want to send a delegation of patriots," he urged, because the athletes would be competing in "the heart of the empire that despises us," at "the heart of the monster."

While quickly adding that Cuba meant no harm to the American people, the Cuban leader said he was referring to the US system, which was "corrupt and corrupting".

Relations between Cuba and the US have been hostile since the 1959 revolution that brought Castro to power and are currently at a low following Cuba's downing of two small US planes off Cuba in February, which prompted a tightening of the US embargo against the island.

Castro's angry speech made direct mention of the three sporting defections over the last two weeks. "The defections have raised questions over whether more Cuban sports men and women may concede to the temptations of a different political system or the promise of huge riches during the Atlanta Games."

Last month Cuba's boxing squad - which picked up seven gold medals in the Barcelona Games - was hit by the defections of two boxers with medal hopes. They were Joel Casamayor and Ramon Garbey, who left a Cuban training squad in Mexico and sought political asylum in the US.

Then the baseball squad's best pitcher, Juan Arroyo, disappeared from a hotel in Albany, Georgia where the squad was taking part in preparation matches. Baseball is also another key hope for a gold medal for Cuba.

Castro, 69, said Arroyo had been "bought" and added that athletes who had defected in the past had been "attracted by the mercenary spirit." He said they had committed the "atrocities of betraying the country," adding that their behavior hurt Cuba because millions of Cubans put their trust in sports heroes.

"Whoever betrays the country does not just hurt those feelings but hurts the nation, and encourages the enemy that wants to destroy us," said Castro, who was a keen student baseball player and has taken an active personal interest in developing Cuban sports.

He noted the country's sports system had remained afloat despite years of economic crisis since the collapse of Cuba's ally, the former Soviet Union. Some 100 sports schools were still operating across the island.



NATIONAL PRIDE - Barcelona silver medalist Yael Arad, passport in hand, sets out for Atlanta early yesterday morning. (Sarit Uziely)

Relatives of slain Israeli athletes to tour Southeast USA

ATLANTA (AP) - Relatives of the 11 Israeli athletes slain during the 1972 Olympics will speak against terrorism during a tour of the Southeast, the Israeli consul said Wednesday.

Fourteen of the victims' children and two widows will speak at a news conference in Atlanta on July 22. The 1972 Olympics are the first they have attended since the tragedy in Munich, consulate spokesman Kerry Baron said.

"Israel has mourned her Olympic loss alone for 24 years," Consul General Arye Mekel said. "We now hope that the rest of the Olympic community will

join us in recognizing the tremendous loss for these families and for the state of Israel."

The group will share its stories with civic, athletic and religious groups in Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee, Baron said. Those dates were not immediately released.

Two athletes were killed when Palestinian terrorists stormed their housing complex in September 1972. Nine others died in a botched attempt by German police to free the hostages.

Five of the eight terrorists and a German policeman were killed as well.

Guy Levy to coach Hapoel Beit She'an

ORI LEWIS

GUY Levy has signed a contract to take charge of soccer club Hapoel Beit She'an next season. The young coach, who has been at the helm at Hapoel Petah Tikva for the past two seasons is moving on from his old home where his father, Gavri, used to be the club chairman.

Both Levys have made way for a new regime as the premier Petah Tikva club was taken over by private investors at the end of last season. Guy Levy is reported to have secured himself a salary of \$45,000 for the year, with a bonus of \$10,000 if Beit She'an, one of the National League's poorest club managers to avoid relegation.

Since their promotion to the top flight, two seasons ago, the Beit She'anis avoided the drop on the last day of the season in both their National League campaigns.

In other news, Itzik Zohar has closed a deal to play for Betar Jerusalem in the coming season. The only stumbling block was an okay from Zohar's club, Royal Antwerp of Belgium.

The Jerusalemis are completing a training camp in Berlin before opening their UEFA Cup challenge with a home fixture against Florina of Malta in Jerusalem on Wednesday.

National team goalkeeper Rafi Cohen has moved across town from Maccabi to Hapoel Haifa. He joins Croatian coach Ivan Katalinic, who has taken over from Avraham Grant.

O's Ripken, Alomar expected to start against Yankees

JASON LACANFORA

BALTIMORE - Cal Ripken and Roberto Alomar were expected to play last night when the Orioles opened a four-game series against the first-place New York Yankees.

Ripken broke his nose during the team photo session before the All-Star Game on Tuesday night, and there was some concern that he would experience more swelling. But Ripken played into the seventh inning and was evaluated Wednesday by a doctor who told the shortstop he was fine.

Alomar sprained his left ring finger diving headfirst into first base Saturday and sat out Sunday's game before playing 5 innings in the All-Star Game. The second baseman said he felt great

afterward and did not aggravate the injury.

Alomar was at Camden Yards for some treatment Wednesday and Ripken said he was ready for last night's action.

"I'm sure Cal will be fine," Manager Davey Johnson said. "I talked to the doctors and the trainers and they said he'll be all right. Robbie just came through for some treatment. ... Everything else seems to be all right."

Ripken, Alomar and Brady Anderson did not participate in Wednesday's optional workout, but none was expected because of having played in the All-Star

Game.

In all, 15 Orioles were present for the 90-minute practice, including starters B.J. Surhoff and Rafael Palmeiro.

Palmeiro was not pleased with Chicago White Sox first baseman Frank Thomas' decision to wait until Tuesday to reveal that he would not be able to play in the All-Star Game because of a foot injury he suffered last week.

Palmeiro said he would have gone to Philadelphia as a replacement if he had been asked.

"He could've said something on Sunday," Palmeiro said of Thomas. "One day it'll be reversed and he'll be the guy left off the team."

(The Baltimore Sun)

Major League leaders at the halfway mark

NATIONAL LEAGUE

BATTING - Piazza, Los Angeles, .363; EYoung, Colorado, .345; Burks, Colorado, .341; TGwynn, San Diego, .338; Grace, Chicago, .335; Biehette, Colorado, .335; Mabry, St. Louis, .331.
RUNS - Burks, Colorado, 77; Biehette, Colorado, 71; Finley, San Diego, 69; Bagwell, Houston, 68; Biggio, Houston, 67; Bonds, San Francisco, 67; Grudzielanek, Montreal, 66.
RBIs - Biehette, Colorado, 80; Calaraga, Colorado, 75; Bagwell, Houston, 74; Burks, Colorado, 72; HRodriguez, Montreal, 70; McWilliams, San Francisco, 68; Bonds, San Francisco, 68; McGriff, Atlanta, 68.
HITS - LJohnson, New York, 121; Biehette, Colorado, 120; Grudzielanek, Montreal, 117; Burks, Colorado, 114; Piazza, Los Angeles, 109; Grissom, Atlanta, 108; Lansing, Montreal, 106; Finley, San Diego, 106.
DOUBLES - Lansing, Montreal, 27; Bagwell, Houston, 26; Finley, San Diego, 26; HRodriguez, Montreal, 24; Castilla, Colorado, 24; Biehette, Colorado, 24; Javier, San Francisco, 24.
TRIPLES - LJohnson, New York, 13; Grissom, Atlanta, 6; Morandini, Philadelphia, 5; DeShields, Los Angeles, 5; Vizcaino, New York, 5; Finley, San Diego, 5; DvWhite, Florida, 5.
HOME RUNS - Sosa, Chicago, 27; HRodriguez, Montreal, 25; Sheffield, Florida, 25; Piazza, Los Angeles, 24; Hundley, New York, 23; Bonds, San Francisco, 23; Klesko, Atlanta, 22; Bagwell, Houston, 22; Burks, Colorado, 22; Calaraga, Colorado, 22.
STOLEN BASES - EYoung, Colorado, 31; DeShields, Los Angeles, 30; LJohnson, New York, 28; McRae, Chicago, 25; RHenderson, San Diego, 23; Larkin, Cincinnati, 21; BLHunter,

Houston, 20; Martin, Pittsburgh, 20; Bonds, San Francisco, 20.
PITCHING (11 Decisions) - Smoltz, Atlanta, 14-4, .778, 3.16; Gardner, San Francisco, 8-3, .727, 3.73; Hamilton, San Diego, 10-4, .714, 4.72; Neagle, Pittsburgh, 9-4, .692, 2.93; Reynolds, Houston, 10-5, .667, 3.76; Osborne, St. Louis, 8-4, .667, 3.13; Ritzi, Colorado, 10-5, .667, 4.53.
STRIKEOUTS - Smoltz, Atlanta, 149; Nomo, Los Angeles, 133; Kile, Houston, 128; PFMartinez, Montreal, 123; Reynolds, Houston, 119; Fassero, Montreal, 113; GMaddux, Atlanta, 110.
SAVES - TdWorrell, Los Angeles, 23; JBrantley, Cincinnati, 22; Botalico, Philadelphia, 20; Franco, New York, 19; Hoffman, San Diego, 18; Wohlers, Atlanta, 18; Nen, Florida, 17; Beck, San Francisco, 17.
AMERICAN LEAGUE
BATTING - Knoblauch, Minnesota, .370; Seitzer, Milwaukee, .353; RAlomar, Baltimore, .352; FThomas, Chicago, .349; MVAughn, Boston, .346; ARodriguez, Seattle, .336; Cirillo, Milwaukee, .336.
RUNS - EMartinez, Seattle, 79; Phillips, Chicago, 71; RAlomar, Baltimore, 70; ARodriguez, Seattle, 67; FThomas, Chicago, 66; Belle, Cleveland, 66; MVAughn, Boston, 65; Knoblauch, Minnesota, 65; GVAughn, Milwaukee, 65; ByAnderson, Baltimore, 65; RBIs - FThomas, Chicago, 85; MVAughn, Boston, 78; EMartinez, Seattle, 78; RPalmeiro, Baltimore, 77; GVAughn, Milwaukee, 75; Belle, Cleveland, 74; Buhner, Seattle, 72.
HITS - MVAughn, Boston, 118; FThomas, Chicago, 116; RAlomar, Baltimore, 115; Molitor, Minnesota, 115; Lofton,

Cleveland, 114; Knoblauch, Minnesota, 114; Seitzer, Milwaukee, 110.
DOUBLES - EMartinez, Seattle, 42; ARodriguez, Seattle, 28; IRodriguez, Texas, 27; Giambi, Oakland, 24; Cordova, Minnesota, 23; AGonzalez, Toronto, 23; JnValentin, Boston, 23; RAlomar, Baltimore, 23; Carter, Toronto, 23; TRIPLES - Knoblauch, Milwaukee, 9; Vina, Milwaukee, 6; JnValentin, Milwaukee, 6; Guillen, Chicago, 5; Carter, Toronto, 5; Cirillo, Milwaukee, 4; Pride, Detroit, 4; Thome, Cleveland, 4; Cora, Seattle, 4.
HOME RUNS - ByAnderson, Baltimore, 30; McGwire, Oakland, 28; Belle, Cleveland, 27; MVAughn, Boston, 26; Canseco, Boston, 26; GVAughn, Milwaukee, 24; Sprague, Toronto, 23; FThomas, Chicago, 23; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 23; Buhner, Seattle, 23.
STOLEN BASES - Lofton, Cleveland, 42; TGoodwin, Kansas City, 38; Vizquel, Cleveland, 20; Nixon, Toronto, 20; Listach, Milwaukee, 17; Knoblauch, Minnesota, 17; Damon, Kansas City, 15.
PITCHING (11 Decisions) - Pavlik, Texas, 11-2, .846, 4.82; Nagy, Cleveland, 11-2, .846, 3.53; BWells, Seattle, 9-2, .818, 3.79; Pettitte, New York, 13-4, .765, 3.81; Boskie, California, 9-3, .750, 4.27; Hitchcock, Seattle, 8-3, .727, 4.81; McDonald, Milwaukee, 8-3, .727, 4.01.
STRIKEOUTS - Clemens, Oakland, 42; Finley, California, 118; AFernandez, Chicago, 116; Mussina, Baltimore, 110; Appier, Kansas City, 109; Guzman, Toronto, 105; Alvarez, Chicago, 98.
SAVES - Wetteland, New York, 29; RHemandez, Chicago, 26; Mesa, Cleveland, 24; Percival, California, 22; Henneman, Texas, 21; Montgomery, Kansas City, 18; RMyers, Baltimore, 18.

NBA's free agent period to begin

NEW YORK (AP) - If the NBA's labor situation finally is resolved, the league's huge free-agent market finally will open 10 days later than originally scheduled.

A two-day moratorium on trades, signings and negotiations was scheduled to end yesterday if the collective bargaining agreement between the league and the players is finally signed.

A two-day break was agreed upon after a brief lockout was imposed Monday when the league and union found themselves at odds once again over details of the labor agreement. Both sides now say there are no more open issues.

"That stuff is over with. What are they going to fight about now?" said Gary Payton, who will be the most sought-after point guard in the free-agent market.

A number of trades that have been on hold could be finalized once the moratorium is lifted. Charles Barkley is expected to be dealt to the Houston Rockets in a three-way trade that would send Dikembe Mutombo to Phoenix and Robert Horry and Sam Cassell to Denver.

Other rumored deals would have Kobe Bryant being traded from Charlotte to the Los Angeles Lakers for Viade Divac, and Andrew Lang going from Minnesota to Milwaukee for a future first-round draft pick.

General managers and agents, after sitting on their hands for the past 10 days, will finally be able to negotiate contracts for the biggest and gaudiest free-agent market the NBA has ever seen.

Michael Jordan, Shaquille O'Neal, Reggie Miller, Dennis Rodman and Juwan Howard are among the biggest names available.

"I expect my deal to be done in about four days. Shaq might take a week," Payton said.

About 150 players whose contracts have expired will be available. Money and location will be the prime considerations. The teams with the most room under the salary cap will have the most options, but any team can exceed the \$24.5 million limit to retain one of its players.

The Miami Heat, New York Knicks, Minnesota Timberwolves, Indiana Pacers and Vancouver Grizzlies have the most salary cap room, and the Lakers will join that group if the anticipated trade for Bryant goes through.

The Lakers would then make a hard push for O'Neal, hoping the movie lots and recording studios of Hollywood can lure him from Orlando.

"It's going to be a difficult time, one of the most difficult decisions of my life. It's like deciding whether to get married, where to go to college, whether to leave college early," O'Neal said earlier this week.

O'Neal and Alonzo Mourning might be the two most sought-after centers, especially if the Mutombo-Barkley trade goes through.

The second tier of free agent centers includes Ervin Johnson of Seattle, Jim McIlvaine of Washington, Benoit Benjamin of Milwaukee and Sean Rooks of Atlanta.

Payton, the defensive player of the year for Seattle, is the marquee point guard on the market. A notch below are Kenny Anderson, Tim Hardaway and Derek Harper. John Stockton and Magic Johnson

would be on the A-list, too, but Stockton is expected to re-sign with Utah and Johnson has retired once again.

B-list point guards include Robert Pack, Chris Childs, Lee Mayberry, Eric Murdock, Kenny Smith, Spud Webb and Brent Price.

Rodman, Howard, Horace Grant, Dale Davis, Brian Grant, Brian Williams, Chris Gatling, Otis Thorpe, Kevin Willis and Elden Campbell are among the best power forwards. Walt Williams, PJ Brown, Don MacLean, Mario Elie and David Benoit are among the small forwards.

The shooting guards include Jordan, Miller, Allen Houston, Steve Smith, Rex Chapman, Dan Majerle, Latrell Sprewell and Hersey Hawkins.

ICC locked in stalemate over leadership mantle

LONDON (Reuters) - Cricket's nine Test-playing nations were locked in a stalemate on Wednesday over the election of a successor to International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman Sir Clyde Walcott.

None of the three candidates - Jagmohan Dalmiya, Krish Mackerdij and Malcolm Gray - Dalmiya, Krish Mackerdij and Malcolm Gray - won the required two-thirds majority of the Test-playing nations at the ICC annual meeting at Lord's, Walcott's term as ICC chairman expires in July next year.

He said the nine delegates decided to hold another election in 12 months' time.

"We could not achieve a consensus and there was no clear winner in accordance with the rules," Walcott said. "The members then decided that a fresh election would be held during our 1997 conference."

Indian Board secretary Dalmiya, widely viewed as radical, was assured of the support of only three Test countries.

smaller 22 associate members who each carry only one vote compared with the Test-playing nations who have two votes.

South African Cricket Board president Mackerdij and former Australian Cricket Board chairman Gray are believed to have originally split the anti-Dalmiya vote in the first ballot.

Delegates also voted against a separate proposal to rotate the chairmanship around the Test countries. Dalmiya advocates revolutionary changes which would rid Test cricket of drawn matches and argues that expansion is essential for the long-term survival of the game.

He favors a limiting of first-innings overs or using a time limit on every innings. He also proposes a world club championship.

In other matters, the draw for the quarter-finals of the NatWest Trophy pits Lancashire v Derbyshire, Surrey v Somerset, Hampshire v Essex and Sussex v Yorkshire. The matches are scheduled for Tuesday, July 30.

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Joseph Botman, Sports Editor

High Court considers injunction against closing Rehov Bar-Ilan

EVELYN GORDON
and BILL HUTMAN

THE High Court of Justice will decide today whether to issue an injunction against the partial closure of Rehov Bar-Ilan in response to two petitions filed yesterday.

The petitions were filed by Lior Horev, an activist with Labor's Young Guard, and MK Ophir Pines (Labor).

The petitions argued that Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy had no right to make such a decision without consulting either representatives of Jerusalem's secular neighborhoods or Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, Pines, a resident of Ramot, said he tried unsuccessfully to arrange a meeting with Levy.

Meanwhile, Acting Jerusalem Mayor Haim Miller (United Torah Judaism) said that he has "instructed city officials to make the preparations for the road's closures a top priority." He said work began yesterday on road signs indicating the closure times.

"We are waiting for the High Court ruling," Miller said. "If the High Court doesn't try to stop us, the road will be closed during prayer times this Shabbat."

The city spokesman, however,

said the street signs would not be ready until next week, and for that reason the closure would not begin until July 19.

The petitioners also argued that the decision would have been invalid anyway, because the supervisor of traffic is not allowed to consider factors such as the religious sensibilities of the haredim who live along Bar-Ilan—he is only allowed to weigh factors related to traffic flow.

Horev charged that the real reason for the decision was coalition considerations, which is certainly illegitimate.

While major arteries have been closed before, Pines said, there were always reasonable alternative routes. However, he said, there is no alternative to Bar-Ilan. Horev added that because of this, the closure would hinder ambulances and security vehicles.

Pines also argued that the decision changes the religious status quo, and is therefore a violation of the coalition guidelines, which promised to preserve the status quo.

Finally, he argued, this decision is something that must be published in the government gazette *Reshumot* before being implemented.

Haim Shapiro adds: Even if Meretz holds a demonstration on Rehov Bar-Ilan this Shabbat, the haredim will not react, Yebuda Meshi-Zahav, the "operations officer" of the Eda Haredit, said yesterday.

Meshi-Zahav said that the capital would not see haredi demonstrations along the controversial street either this Shabbat or the next. The commitment not to demonstrate had been reached in negotiations with the police, he said.

He added, however, that if Meretz made a point of demonstrating week after week, haredim would respond. Last week saw violent haredi demonstrations in which 10 people were detained by police.

Meshi-Zahav said that he is not satisfied with the decision, but he expressed the hope that after four-month trial period, Jerusalemites would see that the partial closure was not so bad and would be willing to have the street closed throughout Shabbat.

MDA, Fire Service, police unsure about road closure

JUDY SIEGEL

MAGEN David Adom, the police,

and the Fire Service yesterday made inquiries about arrangements to close Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan during Shabbat and holiday prayers, noting that it is vital for ambulances, fire engines, and other emergency vehicles to pass through unimpeded.

The municipal spokesman said that the new rules, decided upon by Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy, would be carried out as a "four-month experiment" using traffic signs and under the supervision of the police. Chains and other barriers would not be used because of the danger to the public, the spokesman said.

Israel Radio reported that Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, in the Netanyahu entourage in the US, was surprised by Levy's decision and had not been informed. The spokesman's office did not say whether Olmert was surprised by the decision, or only by its timing.

Jerusalem police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said the police could not voice its position on the political issue, but would enforce the law.

"The ministry, the municipality, and MDA must make arrangements to ensure that emergency vehicles can pass through this arterial street if necessary," he added.

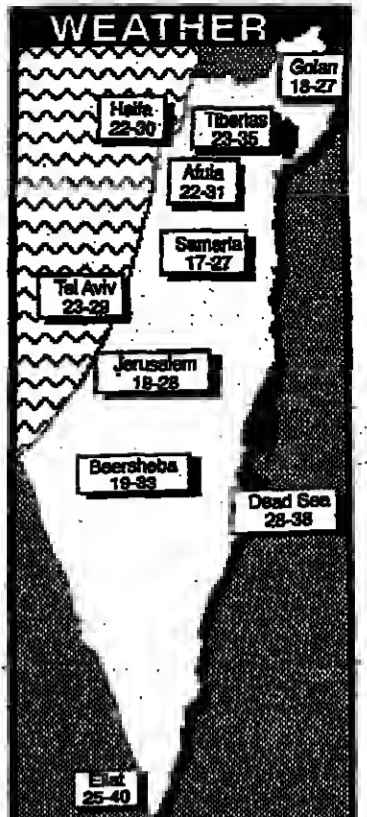
"It is unclear how many policemen would have to be sent each Friday night, Saturday morning, and Saturday evening to Rehov Bar-Ilan and side streets to prevent cars from driving there during hours when prayers are held. Since prayer times constantly change over the year, announcements will somehow have to be made in the media informing secular residents when they can't use the street.

Rehov Yirmiyahu and its continuation, Rehov Bar-Ilan, connect the city's MDA station to the road leading to Hadassah-University Hospital on Mt. Scopus. Taking an alternate route or moving barriers to get through would waste precious time and endanger lives, said Jerusalem MDA director Avraham Halbersberg.

"We contacted the police, and so far they know nothing about how the decision will be carried out," he said.

Rami Yaffe, Jerusalem's fire chief, said that in the past, firemen have sometimes had to cut through chains and push away barriers set up illegally in religious areas to reach a fire. "We would prefer that all streets are open on weekends so we can work unimpeded, but it's not our decision."

One of the city's main fire stations is a few dozen meters away from Rehov Yirmiyahu.



AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Temp	Forecast
Berlin	18	cloudy
Bombay	28	cloudy
London	15	cloudy
New York	22	cloudy
Paris	18	cloudy
Rome	24	cloudy
Tokyo	28	cloudy
Hong Kong	28	cloudy
Singapore	28	cloudy
Los Angeles	24	cloudy
San Francisco	18	cloudy
London	15	cloudy
New York	22	cloudy
Paris	18	cloudy
Rome	24	cloudy
Tokyo	28	cloudy
Hong Kong	28	cloudy
Singapore	28	cloudy
Los Angeles	24	cloudy
San Francisco	18	cloudy

Peres blasts Netanyahu's US speech, warns against Arab backlash

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

LABOR Party leader Shimon Peres attacked Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday for the policy he presented to the United States Congress, warning that Netanyahu is uniting the Arab world against Israel and leading to confrontation.

Speaking at Labor's executive, Peres laid into Netanyahu's three principles of reciprocity, peace or terrorism, and democratization of the Arab states, noting "that he is presenting three conditions which we know cannot be fulfilled."

"What we saw in Washington yesterday was an unwise attempt to unite the Arab world against us. Netanyahu's whole approach indicates that peace is good for the Americans or the Arabs. This reveals a basic lack of understanding of the meaning of peace. Peace is a contribution to Israel's security, perhaps even greater than cutting the defense budget," he said.

Peres said the importance of Netanyahu's trip to Washington was "in whether it would pave the way for a second generation of peace, or a second generation of confrontation. My impression is that it did not open the way for peace, and we may be entering a second generation of confrontation in completely different circumstances."

Peres blasted Netanyahu's proposals vis-a-vis the negotiations with Lebanon, stating "they would bring Syria to Metulla. It's preferable to have a peace agreement with Lebanon with Syria in the Golan than having Syria in Metulla without a peace agreement."

He went on to scoff at the Likud, "whose election propaganda attacked me for shaking hands with Arafat. Now the Israeli foreign minister tells us that he intends to meet Arafat in two weeks' time, and maybe the prime minister will do so even earlier. They're competing with each other on who will shake Arafat's hand first."

Peres also lashed out at the government's economic program. "Netanyahu was eager to present the Americans with a grandiose economic plan, like Coca-Cola, so that the Americans applaud him. How many ovals did he get?



Labor leader Shimon Peres at the party's executive session yesterday.

14? I got 17. What does it matter?"

MK Haim Ramon charged Netanyahu with trying to evade the peace process, noting "his government has succeeded in two weeks to unite the Arab world around Syria's radical position, dragging us four to five years backward. Netanyahu's three conditions are an attempt to shirk the peace process and violate what Netanyahu pretended to promise in the elections. Stopping the peace process is the greatest blow to security."

Commenting on Netanyahu's insistence on democratization in the Arab states as a condition for peace, Ramon said, "is that Israel's mission? Spreading the torch of democracy in the Middle East? According to this principle, we would not have made peace with Egypt, not even with Jordan. And there wouldn't have been any negotiations with the Syrians."

"Security and peace is good, but stopping the peace negotiations would put an end to the four-month cooperation with the Palestinian Authority in the battle

against terror, thus causing direct damage to the personal security of each and every one of us," Ramon said.

Peretz demands Labor's nomination for Histadrut chairmanship

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

HISTADRUT Chairma Amir Peretz, is demanding to be nominated, without primaries, as Labor's candidate for Histadrut chairman in the next elections.

Peretz told former prime minister Shimon Peres yesterday that, otherwise, he will not agree to the merger between Labor's Histadrut faction and New Life, the faction formed by Haim Ramon together with Peretz and Shmuel Avital.

Ramon's New Life faction united with Meretz and Shas to form the Ram list, which won the Histadrut elections against Labor. Peretz expressed regret over the Histadrut's organizational collapse following Ramon's term as chairman of the labor federation, noting that "what happened in the Histadrut is a disaster." He was referring to the demoralization and lack of motivation among labor council secretaries and grassroots activists as a result of Ramon's mass dismissals.

Labor Party Secretary-General Nissim Zvili pointed out that the 30,000 votes which Labor needed to win the elections could easily have been found among party activists in development townships and labor councils, had it not been for their despair and anger against the party's "abandoning" them during Ramon's era.

Labor sources explained that many central activists and labor council secretaries had sworn to take revenge on Labor when election day arrived because of the party leadership's failure to intervene when Ramon fired them and

closed down labor councils and Histadrut departments.

Since Ramon's return to Labor after the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, Labor leaders have been urging the return of the New Life members to Labor's Histadrut faction.

Peres rejected Peretz's ultimatum but said he was in favor of negotiations to unite New Life with Labor's Histadrut faction. At a meeting of Labor's Histadrut faction leaders with Peres yesterday, they noted that New Life is receiving hundreds of thousands of shekels from the Histadrut as "political tax," although they are in fact members of the Labor Party.

They complained that New Life is using the funds to rent offices and form a political power base with which they can run against Labor as a separate list.

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Peres clashes with Zadok

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

A SHARP confrontation between Shimon Peres and former justice minister Haim Zadok erupted at yesterday's Labor executive committee meeting. Zadok called on Peres to resign as party chairman and make way for a new leader as soon as possible.

He accused the party leadership of responsibility for the election defeat and said "neither the chairman nor the secretary-general [Nissim Zvili] provided the required leadership in the election campaign. The ship floated without a captain."

The longer Labor postpones its leadership contest, the more internal bickering and dispute it will have, Zadok said, voicing the feelings of many in Labor.

Peres is reportedly smirking from this week's attempt of leading Labor MKs to meet to discuss the leadership elections without inviting him, and blasted party leaders for their occupation with party issues "instead of making their voice heard on economic and security affairs."

In an address filled with fighting spirit, he banged on the table and said: "We're not fighting for the status of the Labor Party or for its leadership or the status of the MKs. The battle is over the future of the Jewish people."

Peres did not mention the possibility of early retirement and gave the impression he is determined to prove he can continue leading the party as a militant opposition.

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Iranian steward convicted here of air piracy

AN Iranian steward was convicted yesterday of air piracy by the Beer Sheva District Court for hijacking a plane here last year.

Reza Jabari, 30, surrendered to authorities and asked for asylum after the Kish Air domestic flight carrying Iranian vacationers landed at Uvda Air Force Base last September.

According to the indictment, Jabari entered the cockpit shortly after it took off from Teheran and

threatened the pilot at gunpoint. He also fired a shot to scare the flight crew and to elicit their cooperation.

The plane with its crew and 176 passengers returned to Teheran after 30 hours in Israel.

Jabari, who served as an airman in the Iranian army, had said he hijacked the plane to Israel, because of what he called "the difficult situation" in his homeland.

Sentencing will be at a later date. (Itim)

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